

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

MAY 2013

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year's annual parochial church meeting was held on Sunday 21 April at 12noon, following the service. The meeting concluded with the Vicar's remarks given below.

It has become something of a cliché to say that the church is not a building but the people, but like all clichés there is truth in. It is you, the people of St Mary's who are the church here in The Boltons. It is your attendance at services, your commitment and dedication to supporting the church in many different ways, it is the children at Sunday School and Little Lambs who make St Mary's a lively, active church and I am extremely grateful to everyone who is a part of it.

A church community should never stand still; indeed our faith asks us to change, so that slowly and gradually we see our lives and the world through the eyes of Christ, and act accordingly; change is both internal and external.

Change comes whether we like it or not and last year saw changes here at St Mary's and this year will too. The most obvious ones last year were the installation of the Craigie Aitchison window and the departure of our Director of Music, Graham Caldbeck. For some people, the window has been a challenge and Graham's departure was a great loss, but as the window has settled down in its surroundings it has added a new quality to our worship space and hence to our worship. Graham Caldbeck gave us much wonderful music during his eight years at St Mary's and I am delighted that John Ward, his successor, has continued the tradition.

There were other changes too. The Communications Committee was formed and it

has done great work in improving the ways we communicate with the congregation and parishioners, as our new website, which goes live on 20 May will illustrate. Another group was formed to look at what is loosely called 'Adult Formation' to explore ways we might encourage one another in our faith, exploring it and living it. In addition much work behind the scenes has been done on health and safety, on maintenance and on our energy consumption as we seek not just to lower our costs but to be more environmentally friendly.

Looking ahead to this year, there will be more changes.

The PCC has agreed to appoint someone to lead our children's activities, Sunday School and Little Lambs. This will be a paid position and we hope that the person appointed will support the parents who already volunteer and develop our children's programme of activities and learning. We hope to have someone in place for September.

At the end of October it will be time to say goodbye to Ruth who since 2008 has been our associate vicar. Ruth came for a fixed term of five years and those years have gone by incredibly quickly. She has contributed a great deal to St Mary's in many different ways and I am extremely grateful for all that she has been able to do. The PCC have agreed, subject to the Bishop of Kensington's agreement, that we will appoint a new associate vicar to succeed Ruth. As in the case of Ruth, we shall have to finance his/her stipend, as the diocese will not do so.

There will be other changes, I am sure, both obvious and less obvious ones, and I very much look forward to continuing to work with the

Wardens and PCC in the year ahead. St Mary's is an active and vibrant church and I am delighted to be a part of it.

Ginny Thomas

New PCC members

The following were elected at the APCM on Sunday 21 April 2013

Raymond Kyle

Craig Drake

Judy Rydell

Personal Statements of new PCC members:
Craig Drake's statement will follow next month.

I was born in Belfast in 1974 at the height of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. I was raised in the port town of Larne, Co Antrim, the second of four children, to my mother who worked full-time as a primary school teacher and my father who was a bank manager in the town.

We were raised as Anglicans in St. Cedma's Church of Ireland, the local parish church. Records show a church in the area going back to the 12th century and the current building dates from 1350. The building itself, like all churches, stands as testament to the procession of spiritual life and times: here I was baptised, confirmed, and married. It is the root of my faith and my family.

Having come to England to study Art and Politics in Plymouth in 1993, I graduated and moved to London to work in an architectural practice in Clapham. I met my future husband, Jonas Rydell, a Swede with an especially dry sense of humour, in 2000 whilst I was planning my escape from London – as part of a six-handed crew on board an American yacht for a Pacific crossing. Jonas asked if he could come and visit me and I laughed.

On 6th June, 2001 I met Jonas in Papeete, Tahiti and shortly thereafter we were back in London, living round the corner from St. Mary's, first on Harcourt Terrace and then on Ifield Road. I undertook a PGCE in Art and Design and taught in secondary schools in Surrey and Ealing. When our daughter Alana was born in 2008 we moved to Fulham but came back to St. Mary's for Alana's baptism.

Ginny put her hand firmly on my arm that day and told me; "a church is not just a building, it is a community". Our small Anglo/Irish/Swedish family gains a deepening sense of belonging to this community with every week that passes.

Judy Rydell

I was born on the family farm in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and came to England after my father died when I was eighteen.

I moved to Chelsea in 1995 and used to worship at the Royal Hospital Chelsea until moving to Redcliffe Square in 2010 when I started coming to St Mary The Boltons. I had a rather bad accident in November last year and Ginny and Ruth were so supportive, as were members of the congregation, as it was the power of prayer that brought me through and healed me.

I am involved with Time for Tea at St Mary's and help out with parish lunches, which I enjoy greatly.

I work as a dog walker and spend my time walking round this wonderful and special part of London.

I have a strong faith and look forward to helping in any way that I can at St Mary's.
Raymond Kyle

**Thursday 2 May
Taizé Service
at 7.30pm**



Come, be still, find peace.
A time of quiet contemplation with readings,
prayer and the beautiful songs of Taizé.

Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunch will take place on Sunday 5 May. If you would like to attend please put your name on the list at the back of the church.

Thursday Lunch Ascension Day

The next Thursday Lunch will be on Thursday 9 May at 12.30pm. The speaker is speaker is Ron Howard Ron who is a volunteer at Brompton Cemetery and will give a talk on the many trees species (60) in the Cemetery.

The lunch will be preceded by a Eucharist at 11.45am.

Children's Choir

We are starting a new choir for children aged 6 and upwards, who will sing at our Sunday Parish Eucharist from time to time. This is a wonderful way for children to be drawn more into our life and worship here at St Mary's and we are looking forward to a strong turnout at our first rehearsal which will take place after the morning service on **Sunday 12 May** in the Parish Hall. If your son or daughter is interested in joining us, do please bring them along on the 12th! There is no need to pre-register but if you have any queries, do please let me know.

John Ward, Director of Music.

boltonsmusic@gmail.com

St Mary The Bolton's Quiz Night !



in support of Christian Aid

on Saturday 18 May 2013

in the Church hall

at 7.00pm

Teams of four or individuals are welcome

Tickets:

£15 (including supper & wine)

Earl's Court Community Trust

The season for donations of warm clothes to the ECCT is now over and will re-open in late autumn. Do keep EECT in mind before throwing clothing away and bear in mind that T shirts can have a winter life as vests!

Contemplative Prayer Group

Greta Trevers is starting up a second contemplative prayer group for St Mary The Boltons, meeting once a month. For more information, do contact Greta on 020 7370 2495.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 15 June – Summer Fair

Saturday 22 June –

Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey

We're joining the National Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey, the shrine of the first British martyr. We hope to go as a group by public transport and the day will involve a lot of walking and lots of the day will be on foot. Details to follow.

Thursday 11 July – Trip to Ham House

Our summer outing this year will be to Ham House, the 17th Century gem on the river Thames, home of Elizabeth Murray, Countess of Dysart, who was deeply embroiled in the politics of the English Civil war. We hope to offer lifts by car as well as access via public transport.

New St Mary's website to be launched at Pentecost

All of us are aware that the digital revolution continues to advance at a frantic pace. More people than ever have mobile phones and tablet computers that allow them to access information on the internet from their seat on a London bus or while drinking coffee in their favourite café. St Mary's has had a website for about six years and it receives thousands of visits each year, both from existing parishioners as well as visitors. The website is a great source for basic information and has a fine archive of *Clarions*!

As Ginny mentioned in her comments at the Annual Meeting, we have decided to redesign the website radically to make it more 'user friendly'. It will become a more up to date place to check for information about upcoming events, how to book the church hall, when the

choir will sing during the month and a record of activities during the year (the trip to Waldsassen, the Summer Fair, Quiz Night...). We will use a lot more photos of the church and life at St Mary's to illustrate our activities, so if you have any pictures you think would look good on the site, please email them to John McVeigh.

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting will have seen the preview that Camila Ruz walked us through. This was projected live from the internet from an iPad and shows how versatile the new site will be. The official launch of the new site will be 19 May, which is the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to communicate widely in new ways to a broader audience! While we do not claim any such divine intervention we hope that you will put the St Mary's website on your favourites... If you want a sneak preview of your own you can visit the test site at www.stmarys.willyj.co.uk

If you have any comments or special requests for information that you would like to be able to find on the site, please talk to Camila, or any member of the Communications Committee (Patrick Thomas, Timon Molloy or Katrin Roskelly). We will be running a competition over the summer to design a new logo for the website to reflect St Mary's role in the modern world. Details in next month's *Clarion*.
Patrick Thomas

St Mary The Boltons Summer Fair **Saturday, 15 June** **12.30 noon till**



4.30pm
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!

Huge hot dogs, beautiful burgers, tea and cake, strawberries and cream and jugs of Pimms... what more can you need to keep you fuelled as

you enjoy what the summer fair will have to offer this year. As always, the profits will be helping our charities, which this year are Pump Aid and St Luke's Redcliffe Gardens Food Bank, as well as Medic Malawi, the St Nicholas Fund at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, and Alex, a school boy in Uganda.

The Poster is being worked on, the Band is booked, and the Fire Service and Mounted Police will have the date in their diary. Sadly the Household Cavalry will be guarding the monarch at Trooping the Colour, but that does mean that we should benefit from the flypast, as last year. As head of the church, we are grateful that Her Majesty takes the trouble to think of how she can make our Summer Fair even more special!

As always, there will be other ways apart from food and drink to part you from your cash: the glorious bookstall, intriguing bric-à-brac where you are bound to find something you fancy but probably don't need, the bottle tombola that could well surprise you, children's books, toys and games, delicious home-made produce, as well as the Raffle and this year's Seven Splendid Hampers. We are researching a few new ideas and we are hoping that the Face Painter will return and the coconut shy even has new balls!

Last year's system, where tokens are bought and used as currency during the afternoon, worked well so we will be doing the same this year.

The Seven Splendid Hampers this year will be on the following inspirational and aspirational themes: Harmony, Courage, Grace, Love, Wisdom, Trust and Hope. We realise that links may be tenuous, but a DVD of *The Road to Mandalay* could go in the Hope hamper (think Bob Hope) equally, golf balls or a book of bad jokes or a travel guide as somewhere one could hope to go. *High Society* could work in the Grace hamper, but so could a voucher for a meal (you might say Grace before it). Courage may inspire a toy dragon or soldiers, a book of military history or heroic skills, a voucher for skydiving, a toy spider. Patience could prompt a pack of cards, a book of slow cooking, anything to do with the garden. Love: anything with a

heart motif or something you love, Harmony: anything musical or perhaps a tin of hair spray. Wisdom could provoke thoughts of Norman or the Oxford English Dictionary and anything in between. May they tempt your thoughts, tickle your fancy and prompt donations and desires for the strictly limited tickets. Let your imagination run riot; it will make people smile! We will package the Hampers a week before the fair so that those who might not be able to make the day itself can still join in and buy a ticket.

Raffle Prizes are always welcome and very much appreciated, and if you or an organization or individual you know may be able to contribute a prize, please ask as we would be very grateful.

Obviously, the stalls need things to sell too. Cakes can be frozen if needs be and the more that we have, the more we can sell. Please keep the fair in mind If you are 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 do what we can. The Tombola needs bottles of everything from champagne to perfume, tomato ketchup to shampoo, orange squash to Lea & Perrins. Smile as you go round Sainsbury's and see what you can come up with!

The Summer Fair is successful because it is a community event. We are so grateful for everyone's help and contributions and especially on the day and manning the stalls, including the relief team to give the valiant stall holders a chance to have a rest and spend some of their own money too!

More details will come and more pleas will be made and all offers of help and support are much appreciated. Please keep the date in your diary and please come and join us and if there is any way in which you would like to help please do get in touch either through the Parish Office or directly.

Katrina Quinton

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Flower Arrangers Extraordinaires

For very many years St Mary's has had the very good fortune to have a team of gifted flower arrangers led by Boo Simpson and Anita Dowbiggin who have provided exceptional flower arrangements throughout the year, not just for our Sunday services, but also for weddings, funerals and memorial services. The arrangements have enhanced the church's beauty and our worship and have always attracted appreciative and admiring comments.

Sadly, the time has come for both Boo and Anita to step down, although Boo will continue to arrange flowers for special occasions, such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest festival. On behalf of us all, and my predecessors, I would like to thank Boo and Anita for all their wonderful work, for their time, skill and dedication over so many years, and also thank all who have helped them. I am sure they would agree with Anne Morrow Lindbergh who wrote, 'Arranging a bowl of flowers in the morning can give a sense of quiet in a crowded day – like writing a poem or saying a prayer'.

Many, many thanks to Boo and Anita – flower arrangers extraordinaires!

Ginny Thomas

With Boo and Anita's retirement, a team of flowers arrangers, headed by Katrina Quinton and Margarete Geier, will be responsible for the Sunday flowers. If you would like to help, please contact them via the parish office. Also, if on any given Sunday you would like to make a donation towards the flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for a special occasion, please also contact the parish office. (020 7835 1440)

Practical Christianity

The title and themes of Jane Shaw's book, which proved to be the basis of a rewarding Lent Course, have continued to resonate with me. 'Practical' implies deeds and not words, giving, serving, reaching out and helping. Not always easy to do, but 'practical' is such an ordinary word that it brings Christ's teachings firmly into everyday life – which is where they should be. St. Mary's is impressively full of people who are 'doing' and practically

supporting the life of our church and community. Some of what they do is visible. Some is not and I find it humbling whenever I discover how much time and talent is being given in the background by some people and how much they reach out to people in need. More examples were evident when I read an article in *Time* about one of the fastest-growing segments among America's churchgoing millions: Latino Protestants. Many of the people in their congregations have left the Catholic church and many are immigrants. Their churches are evangelical and largely charismatic. The movement is very new and, according to the article, theologically often on shaky ground, but what leapt out at me was the practicality of their faith. They take the 'feed the hungry and clothe the naked' mandate literally. The Pastor in one church has a rule that many Anglican churches would do well to adopt in one form or another: on Sunday mornings you have to greet 10 people before you can hear the sermon!

Anthony Williams



The Inauguration of the new Archbishop

It was one of March's coldest and greyest days but our hearts soared as we approached the grandly beautiful Canterbury Cathedral nestling in its

Close. We were shown to our seats in the second row of chairs in the nave, facing the aisle. The atmosphere was vibrant with anticipation and an awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit – it was good to have half an hour to drink it all in before the service started.

Then the procession began and carried on in a seemingly never-ending stream of dignitaries, lay and religious, of every kind and colour, some simply dressed, some exotic. All the different faiths were represented – Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish and many others – and of course many different denominations of the

Christian church. I was particularly struck by the priests and bishops of the Eastern Orthodox churches with their wise and holy faces, many of them sporting silky white beards which I felt an urge to stroke! Now the real action began, with three resounding thumps on the Great West Door as the new Archbishop, Justin Welby, requested admission. Once inside he was greeted – an innovation he himself had introduced – not by the Dean but by an attractive seventeen year old girl, Evangeline Kanagasooriam, who asked him why he was there and what he sought. 'I am sent as Archbishop to serve you', Justin answered, 'to proclaim the love of Christ and with you to worship and love him with heart and soul, mind and strength'. The whole service was focused on this theme of our pilgrimage in the service of God and of each other, in joy, sorrow and love, both in our individual lives and as part of the Church.

The Archbishop was conducted to the altar where his instalment was to take place. He was led to the throne by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, Sheila Watson. It was the first time that a woman had played such an important part in the ceremony and was felt by everyone to be a clear indication of where his sympathies lay in the matter of female Bishops. Prayers were said for him by the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of London and others. The Dean then placed him in his chair and solemnly installed him with the words: 'I, Robert Andrew Willis, Dean of Canterbury, by the authority committed to me, install you, Most Reverend Father in God, Justin, by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, in this chair of St Augustine, that by God's grace you may guide and govern this See to which the eyes of all Anglican Christians look as the centre of their Communion and fellowship'.

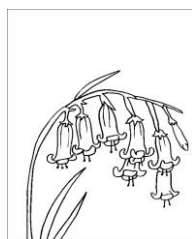
The Archbishop of Burundi then gave his blessing in French, a reminder of Justin Welby's determination that the service should be truly international and emphasise the world-wide nature of the Church. The point was made still more forcibly a few minutes later when a group of Ghanaian dancers and drummers in

national costume burst exuberantly on to the scene. The contrast between the solemn grandeur of the Cathedral building and these splendidly vibrant performers could hardly have been more striking. A few members of the congregation looked a little po-faced but nearly all of us felt it was a marvellously lively and worth-while addition to the service.

The service continued with the Peace, a hymn and the Archbishop's sermon. He spoke with simplicity and dignity, yet his words had great depth and meaning: his fine, reverberant voice contrasting with an appearance that at first seems ordinary and only gradually makes one aware that he is a man of real distinction and inspiration. The music and singing throughout were of the highest order. A highlight was an anthem by Michael Berkeley, commissioned for the occasion by the mother and step-father of the Archbishop. The 21st March was St Benedict's day and the beautiful words of the anthem came from the rule of St Benedict. Finally came the Archbishop's blessing: 'May the Lord in his great mercy bless you, and pour on you the understanding of his wisdom and grace. May he nourish you with the riches of the Faith and make you to persevere in all good works. May he keep your steps from wandering and show you the paths of love and peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen'.

At the end of the ceremony I was left in awe of the great act of worship and commitment that I had witnessed. I am still pondering it in my heart today.

Clare Ziegler



Out in the Garden...

on the south side of the church...

Take a few minutes and walk around the church garden and enjoy its variety and colours, with plants all now bursting to

show off. Look for the tulips, pansies, bluebells, grape hyacinth, primrose, Pasque flowers (in the rockery), forget-me-not, miniature daffodils,

primula, narcissus, big poppies, lily of the valley, wall flowers, violets, aubrietia, and the cherry and crab apple trees starting to flower. Hundreds of seeds have been sown in preparation for the summer, so look out for much more to come.

Verena Tschudin

How to be a better believer (2)

This is the second article in a short series on how I can work harder on my doubts so as to make progress in faith. In the April issue I struggled with the question of life after death. Here I am dealing with the person and nature of Christ. Once again I start with quotations from an article in *The Cord*, a quarterly magazine published by the Franciscan Institute at St Bonaventure University New York. The issue for April/June 2012 carried a review by Girard Etzkorn (a retired professor of that University) of a book entitled *Jesus, an Historical Approximation* by José Antonino Pagola. (1).

Etzkorn's piece tells us that the Kingdom of God, which Jesus came to announce, was not a kingdom at the end of time, but a kingdom here and now where justice, love and peace reign. Time and again he reminds us that Jesus associated by preference with the people marginalised by the culture of his time; the poor, the lepers, the beggars, the women, the prostitutes, the tax-collectors. What title fits Jesus best? Unquestionably and repeatedly Pagola describes him as a prophet, taken in its original sense as 'speaking for another', namely his Father. There is no mention of Christ as priest or king.

For whom does Jesus speak? For a God of mercy, compassion, and love; not of wrath and vengeance. God is of boundless and all-inclusive mercy, a love encompassing all creation. He invites but never resorts to force, whether physical or psychological. His message is basically counter-cultural. The parable of the barn-builder contrasts with the accumulation of wealth. The parable of the Prodigal Son conveys a message of forgiveness and love in contrast with self-righteousness and vengeance. The landowner who pays the same wages to those hired late in the day as to those who had

worked the whole day long contrasts with the mean-spiritedness that questions the generosity of God. The story of the Pharisee and the tax-collector contrasts the self-righteousness of the churchman who puts himself in God's debt by scrupulous observances with the tarnished official who throws himself on God's mercy. Much is made of Jesus' relations with women, who were then regarded as of lesser intelligence, governed by emotion and sensuality rather than reason, and relegated to cooking, cleaning and child-bearing. He welcomed them as supporters and disciples. His verdict on the woman caught in adultery was scandalous because promiscuous men were not regarded as adulterers. The washing of his disciples' feet was a proclamation of leadership through service and love by contrast to the prevailing mind-set of power and control. Jesus' whole life was an affront to the religious and secular power-addicts of his day and that was why he had to be disposed of.

Being redeemed means living in love, compassion and forgiveness and Jesus came to show us how. The article finishes by commending the insight of Duns Scotus (2) that the Son of God would have become man even if Adam had not sinned. Focus on redemption from sin can distort the positive reason for Jesus' life. It is all too obvious that his coming did not do away with sin or war or genocide. It is by implementing the positive that we can be redeemed.

This notion of Jesus as prophet was carried a stage further for me in a paper written by a fellow-member of a study group at Windsor (3). The author tells how he attended a service with a group of Syrian Christians in Jerusalem. Their liturgy was in Old Aramaic, probably the closest we get to the speech of Jesus. What struck him was the speed of the language and its musical lyricism, a far cry from the solemn, loaded tones so often used in our renderings of the Gospels. It gave him a picture of Jesus as a fast-talking Welsh-accented preacher with a sharp or witty response to any question or criticism. He comments that the style of many of Jesus' recorded sayings points to a vivid picture of the ways of human society, grounded in the realities of daily life. His words appear as

sharp, prophetic challenges mixed in with sage-like wit. His parables consist of pithy and sometimes funny sayings about kings, parents, stewards, vineyard owners, neighbours, nature, crops, mustard trees, fish and nets, sheep and shepherds. They are full of observation about how things can happen, or don't, in real life. His approach seems to have been to draw ethics from observation of life, close to that of the Wisdom Proverbs (4). But Jesus' parables are never straight inferences from society to ethics. They are full of tangential thinking and raise more questions than they answer.

Jesus was a prophet, and more than a prophet: a healer, and mystic who came to believe that the kingdom he proclaimed could come about only by accomplishing his own sacrificial death at the hands of the authorities (Luke 9:31). That done, he became the founder of a great world religion. Once again this year's Lent book comes in on cue: 'Jesus crossed lines and broke rules for the sake of God's love and he willingly suffered the consequences. The cry "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" is the pained cry of a lonely man with natural human doubts. Mark's gospel strips away the triumph of certainty and leaves us with a saviour who sought the love of God from where he was, just as he was' (5).

So, what is there to work on here? Another of my heroes is Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) (6). His book *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (7) ends with these words: 'As one unknown and nameless he comes to us, just as on the shore he approached those men who knew not who he was. His words are the same "Follow thou me" and he puts us to the task which He has to carry out in our age. He commands. And to those who obey, be they wise or simple, he will reveal himself through all that they are privileged to experience in his fellowship of peace and activity, of struggle and suffering, till they come to know, as an inexpressible secret, Who He is...'. This is a tough call. But I can, at least, sign up for it.

Hugh Beach

- 1) I. A. Pagola is a professor of theology at St. Sebastian Seminary in Northern Spain. *Jesus, an Historical Approximation*, 2009, Miami, FL: Convivium Press 2009.
- 2) Duns Scotus (1266-1308) was a Franciscan friar and one of the most important philosopher-theologians of the Middle Ages, who taught at Oxford, Paris and Cologne. His ideas are taken seriously by secular philosophers to this day.
- 3) The Revd Ian Tombs, a non-stipendiary parish priest, who trained as a philosopher and worked for many years as Personnel Manager in the UK of a Japanese-owned electronics firm.
- 4) Wisdom Proverbs are found in *Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom of Solomon and Ecclesiasticus*.
- 5) Jane Shaw, *A Practical Christianity; Working on transforming our lives*, SPCK, 2012.
- 6) Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), a native of Alsace, was already famous as a philosopher, theologian, and organist by the age of 30. He then decided to re-qualify as a doctor and in 1913 founded a mission hospital at Lambaréné in Gabon. He ran it for the rest of his life, raising the money in Europe largely by giving recitals of Bach's organ music. He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1952 and the Order of Merit in 1955.
- 7) Albert Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus; A Critical Study of its Progress from Reimarus to Wrede*, (German, 1906). English edition, translated by William Montgomery, A. & C. Black, London 1910, 1911, Prentice Hall (1968).



Thursday Lunch Meeting Report of 11 April 2013: Sharon Connell

Twenty seven people attended this lunch at which the speaker

was the Revd Sharon Connell, Deputy Head Multi-Faith Chaplain's unit at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Sharon said the unit has three full-time Chaplains, several part-time Chaplains, and access to many others to provide cover for the many faiths (including Humanists), among patients, their families and staff at the hospital. They offer religious, spiritual and pastoral care, aiming to visit every ward every week, as well as responding to requests for help at any time. They see themselves as providers of 'hospitality of the heart', by 'being there for others', regardless of any particular faith.

One Chaplain is on call at all times with a pager. For emergency calls, their target is to contact the appropriate faith representative to be with the person on whose behalf the call is made within an hour. In 2012 they had about three hundred and fifty call-outs for their services and about seven hundred referrals. Regular meetings are arranged, for instance coffee gatherings fortnightly for parents with children in the neo-natal unit, and monthly meetings for staff. The Chaplains are keen to be seen as providing 'social' rather than 'crisis' support.

The Chaplains' unit is an integral part of the hospital's service to the community. The Chapel on the hospital's first floor near Lift C is open at all times for people of any faith, available for quiet times and services.

Sharon said that members of St Mary's congregation would always be welcome to visit them. However information to the congregation about someone's admission to the hospital would come through Ginny, not through a Chaplain.

On this occasion the usual lunch menu was expanded to mark Ginny's birthday with her favourite chocolate cake. Much enjoyed by all present, not much was left at the end of the meal!

Arthur Tait.

St Mary The Boltons Trip to Waldsassen

I am not a regular churchgoer and was somewhat surprised to be asked by Ginny if I would like to join the Group from St. Mary's going to Waldsassen in Bavaria. I did say 'yes' because, although having spent our childhood in Germany, it was a part of the country I did not know, and I also have an interest in German and Central European history. Waldsassen is only three miles from the Czech border and so was right up against the 'Iron Curtain' during the Cold War.

After a long journey we finally got to our destination in the evening. Arriving in the dark, the Hotel St. Joseph was very welcoming and so

it was not until the next morning that I got a sense of where we were.

It was a cold grey day, but our surroundings were special as the Hotel is part of the large Abbey complex that dominates the town. Following breakfast and morning prayer – a new experience for me – we set off to Lamberts Glass works, where the stained glass window was made. It was worth the journey just to see round the works as the glass is blown in the traditional manner, so we were witnessing a rare craft. We were able to walk around the whole area taking in each step of the process, which was explained to us by Robert Christ, the Vice President of the company. The factory is only one of three to produce flat glass in the traditional way and has an international reputation. It was a privilege to be able to go round it.

Another aspect of the trip was to visit Flossenbürg where there had been one of the concentration camps during the Nazi period. It was here that Dietrich Bonhöffer was executed. Tuesday afternoon was spent discussing Bonhöffer's life and works before the visit the following day. Overnight snow fell and although the day was again grey, we were driven through a winter wonderland and thus saw the site of the camp in wintry and cold conditions, which added a layer of desolation to the visit. Flossenburg is not one of the camps that one hears much about, perhaps because it did not have gas chambers. It was a work camp, starting off with German 'undesirables' who worked in the local quarry that provided raw materials for the German war effort. Later in the war they produced parts for planes. In one of the original huts there was a very good, though sobering, exhibition of what went on in the camp and it made one realise that it is possible for anyone to behave in appalling ways if opportunities present themselves. It is difficult to know how one would react if faced with choices such as the local population had, for example, as the camp brought in employment and improved standards of living in an area that was well off the beaten track. The visit gave everyone lots to reflect on, not least that it was the British who came up with the original idea of concentration camps during the Boer War.

Snow continued to fall, but the next day dawned fine and sunny and I opted out of discussions in the morning and took a walk through snow covered forest to the Holy Trinity Chapel.



This was quite magical: no-one else was around and I felt I was at one with the landscape and all its beauty. The afternoon was spent looking round the Abbey's Library and the Basilica. The former was quite glorious with painted ceilings and wood carvings of large figures representing the deadly sins. Pigskin and calfskin books lined the walls, but apparently they are not used, most of the more important ones having gone to the Vatican long ago. The Basilica was typically baroque with one extraordinary feature: ten skeletons, all richly dressed, which had been removed from the Catacombs in Rome during the 18th century.

Our journey home the next day began at lunchtime. We retraced our steps and as I looked out of the window on the train, I felt pleased that I had come on the trip, not least because it gave me the opportunity of seeing my sister (Ginny) in action and meeting some of her congregation.

Liz Rhodes

Confirmation Classes

It is the practice at St Mary's to prepare candidates for confirmation in the autumn with confirmation taking place at St Paul's Cathedral on the first Saturday in November. This year the service will be on Saturday 2 November in the afternoon.

If you are considering confirmation for yourself or your child, or want to know more about

confirmation in general, please speak to Ginny or Ruth who will be happy to answer any questions. We consider 11 to be the minimum age for children to be confirmed. Over the past few years we have held separate classes for children and adults; there are about eight sessions in all, beginning in early September.

May Year's Mind

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

Sustainability Top Tip:

Used postage stamps can help to raise money for charity. At St Mary's we have started to collect stamps in aid of The Leprosy Mission. Last year, over £100,000 was raised from stamps and collectables.



Stamps – both UK and overseas – should be left on the envelope and trimmed leaving a 5mm border of paper around the stamp. There is a box at the back of the church in which to place your stamps. Many thanks!

Save those bottle tops! A programme run by Sutton Council collects all types of plastic bottle tops (no metal please) and exchanges them by weight for money that is then used to purchase wheelchairs for disabled people. Three large green recycling bins full of bottle tops equals enough money to buy one wheelchair; five full bins buys one electric wheelchair. This is a great way not only to support a worthwhile charity, but is also environmentally friendly as the council recycles all the tops.

There is a box at the back of the church for bottle top donations. Thank you.

Fiona Parsons

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 Feastsdays); Evening Prayer is usually said at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday except Public Holidays.
 Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

Readings in May 2013

Wednesday 1 Readings at 7.00pm	Philip & James Apostles <i>Isaiah 30. 15-21;</i> <i>John 14. 1-14</i>
Sunday 5 May Readings at 10.30am	Sixth Sunday of Easter <i>Acts 16. 9-15;</i> <i>Revelation 21. 10, 22-22.5;</i> <i>John 5. 1-9</i>
Wednesday 8 Readings at 7.00pm	Julian of Norwich <i>1 Corinthians 13.8-13;</i> <i>Matthew 5. 13-16</i>
Thursday 9 Readings 11.45am	Ascension Day <i>Acts 1. 1-11;</i> <i>Luke 24. 44-end</i>
Sunday 12 May Readings at 10.30	Seventh Sunday of Easter <i>Acts 16. 16-34;</i> <i>Revelation 22. 12-14, 16-17, 20-end;</i> <i>John 17. 20-end</i>
Wednesday 15 Readings at 7.00pm	Eucharist <i>Acts 20. 28-end;</i> <i>John 17. 11-19</i>
Sunday 19 May Readings at 10.30am	Pentecost <i>Acts 2. 1-21;</i> <i>Romans 8. 14-17;</i> <i>John 14. 8-17</i>
Wednesday 22 Readings at 7.00pm	Eucharist <i>Ecclesiasticus 4. 11-19;</i> <i>Mark 9. 38-40</i>
Sunday 26 May Readings at 10.30am	Trinity Sunday <i>Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31;</i> <i>Romans 5. 1-15;</i> <i>John 16. 12-15</i>

Wednesday 29 May Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm *Ecclesiasticus 36. 1-2, 4-5,
10-17;
Mark 10. 32-45*

**Sunday 2 June First Sunday
after Trinity**
Readings at 10.30am *1 Kings 18. 20-21,30-39;
Galatians 1. 1-12;
Luke 7. 1-10*

Upcoming in May 2013

Sunday 5 Parish Lunch
Wednesday 8 10.30am Wednesday Bible group
Thursday 9 11.45am Ascension Day
12.30pm Thursday Lunch
Sunday 12 After the 10.30am service
Childrens Choir practice
2.30pm Baptism of Anna Hunt
Monday 13 7.00pm Monday Bible Study group
Wednesday 15 11.00am Home communion
St Teresa's
Saturday 18 9-1.30 St Nicholas
Fund Table Top Sale
7.00pm Christian Aid Quiz Night
Sunday 19 3.00pm Baptism of Henry Wallace
Wednesday 22 10.30am Wednesday Bible group
Sunday 26 3.30pm Baptism of Nathalie Hebel
Monday 27 Church Closed Bank Holiday
Wednesday 29 2.30pm Home communion
Ellesmere House

Parish Office

St Mary's Church House, The Boltons, London
SW10 9TB Tel 020 7835 1440

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Vicar The Revd Ginny Thomas
020 7835 1440, mobile 07590074951.

Day off: Tuesday
ginny@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Associate Vicar The Revd Ruth Lampard
mobile 07870 651240

Days off Friday & Saturday
ruth@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Director of Music John Ward
07853 406050 (mobile)
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

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

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

Churchwardens

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246
Ann Mulcare 020 7937 2005

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Revd Ginny Thomas (Chair)
Mr Philip Bedford-Smith
Mr Craig Drake
Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie
Miss Margarete Geier
(Deanery Synod Representative),
Mrs Mary Godwin
Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary)
Mr Raymond Kyle
Revd Ruth Lampard
Mr Timon Molloy
Mrs Ann Mulcare
(Deanery Synod Representative),
Mr David Parsons
Mrs Katrina Quinton
Mrs Judy Rydell
Mrs Ann Tait

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

Children's Advocate
Parish Office 0207 835 1440

Co-ordinators:

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

Flowers Boo Simpson 020 8878 9898

Prayer Network
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 0207 835 1440

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