

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

November 2018

Creative

Creative is our word this month, and some of the articles in this issue pick up that theme. It is a word worth pondering, not least because we Christians believe that we are created in the image of a creative God. We are a creative species, born with imagination, and enthusiasm (literally meaning filled with God) to think beyond ourselves and our horizons, at least until the first time we hear that we are not very good at drawing, singing or acting (I wonder if you can remember when that first happened to you?).

The Genesis story, while not being the direct reportage that so many Christians would have us believe, describes the way that God took delight in the creation of the world, and all that is in it, and how God declared the whole thing very good. There is something wonderful that happens when very creative people produce something new, a painting or concerto or poem, which points us beyond ourselves to a new truth and a new way of thinking, looking or hearing. There are also the small creative acts that the rest of us do that are just as wonderful, because they draw us a little deeper into the loving activity of God in the world, such as singing together, praying together, sharing our lives, our stories with each other, eating food together that has been prepared by loving hands. It is what we can all be good at, because it is what we are made for, in God's image.



It puts me in mind of something I read years ago by an American priest and theologian, Robert Farrar Capon, who describes the story of creation as a sort of party, where God the Father keeps thinking of 'all sorts of unnecessary things – new ways of being and new kinds of things to be'. God the Son becomes excited by this, and he and the Spirit contrive to make it happen. The writer goes on:

'So they all pitched in, and after supper that night, the Son and the Holy Spirit put on this tremendous show of being for the Father. It was

full of water and light and frogs; pine cones kept dropping all over the place, and crazy fish swam around in the wineglasses. There were mushrooms and

mastodons, grapes and geese, tornados and tigers – and men and women everywhere to taste them, to juggle them, to join them, and to love them. And God the Father looked at the whole wild party and said, "Wonderful! Just what I had in mind! Tov! Tov! Tov!" And all God the Son and God the Holy Spirit could think of to say was the same thing: Tov! Tov! Tov!" So they shouted together, "Tov meod!" (Robert Farrar Capon, *The Third Peacock*, IN: *The Romance of the World*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995. p.176-177).

Jenny Welsh

Creative

We hear a lot in church about Creator God, the creation of the world, and how we must all play our part in caring for God's creation. But what of us human beings as creators, if we are all made in His likeness?

My dictionary describes *Creative* as 'relating to or involving the use of the imagination or original ideas to create something' and 'having good imagination or original ideas'. I believe both these terms are loose enough definitions to encompass all of God's people, even if like me, you struggle to find a creative bone in the body.



www.astateofjoy.wordpress.com

This month's art work is an image of an extraordinary cake, baked by I know not whom (though doubtless a professional). This creation is packed full of the inventiveness, originality and therefore creativity of which we speak.

Baking itself is an ancient practice, undertaken in many forms across all cultures and countries for many thousands of years. If you believe what the enthusiastic people on the television say, baking is both an art and a science, a skill and a talent, a pleasure and a trauma.

Where do we find God in the things that we create? Is there room for creativity in the making of the smallest sandwich or in the massive scale of global food production? Of course there is. Colossians 3.23 says

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters', and Exodus 35.35 says 'He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers and embroiders in blue'. To be creative is to exercise our God-given talents in any particular area, be that art and design, homemaking, literature and of course, cooking and baking.

What of this particular cake pictured here? Looking at the design, is the choice of black icing the baker's little joke to give no clue as to the riot of colour only seen on the cutting of the cake? Have rainbow colours been chosen especially, a message perhaps, hinting at an affiliation with gay rights? So much more can be expressed through creativity than the simple end result of creative efforts. And finally, what of the inter-stellar themed imagery decorating the cake? This reminds me hugely of a famous 1970s music album cover: a hint from the baker, perhaps, of further creative talents?

So much can come from a small seed of creativity. A meal made and shared with a lonely neighbour. An old item of clothing altered and given a new lease of life. Homemade gifts exchanged at Christmas. A piece of art discussed with someone who has not had a meaningful conversation all week.

Turning to Capital Vision 2020, we are called to be more creative in reaching new people and places in the power of the Spirit.

Where do you believe your creativity lies? Is it hidden, or at least in need of a dust down and bringing out into the light?

Can you think of any ways in which your creativity could enhance what we are doing at St Marys?

Or do you know how our creativity as a whole church could help us to do more in the community?

Joanna Hackett

We Are All Originals

When Jenny announced that the themes in *The Clarion* for the last few months in 2018 were confident, compassionate and creative, I immediately felt compelled to write about creativity.

Is it not amazing that each of us is an original created by God? When I was younger I was quite proud of my achievements but after a few 'stormy periods in my life' I had to admit that there are no self-made men or women. No one ever became talented, creative, or adventurous by himself or herself. God made each of us by himself and is still at work with us. Every single day I should really say thank you to God for my thumb. 'Why the thumb?' you may ask.

There is a simple reason for this. Only human beings possess a small muscle in the palm of the hand called *Opponens Pollicis*, enabling the thumb to touch all the fingers. This unique ability allows human beings to grip and to make precise movements with the hand: to make tools, play instruments, to write, weave, sculpt, build, draw, etc. With a brain but without a thumb, human beings would merely look on, largely unable to create. Isaac Newton wrote: 'The thumb alone would convince me of God's existence'.

My husband Philip and I are immensely proud of our Japanese daughter-in-law Chisato Tamabayashi, usually called Gyoku. God's gift to Gyoku is turning her into a superb artist. She has used her talent in getting involved in the Nightingale Project, which was founded by Dr Nick Rhodes with the assistance of Stephen Barnham. It began at the Kensington and Chelsea Mental Health Centre in 1998 and it has now spread to many other hospitals. Its aim is to brighten up the environment in mental health places through art and music.

Gyoku and her friend Kaho produced 10,000 leaves from transparent celluloid film, which were hung in strips from the ceiling of the second floor corridor of the mental health unit in the Chelsea and Westminster hospital. It created a cheerful environment, giving the impression of walking under trees in a wood.



Gyoku's and Kaho's latest project bringing nature into the dull, clinical reception and 15 treatment rooms located in the basement of St. Charles' hospital was particularly relevant. After the Grenfell Tower fire disaster it now offers a free and confidential NHS service for children and adults affected by the events of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Although the reception area of the Grenfell Wellbeing Centre has no windows, its whitewashed walls with a canopy of bright green leaves stencilled on tree trunks create a bright and relaxing environment. It took Gyoku and her assistants several days to bring nature into the basement. Every treatment room now also has a large canvas of bright colourful flower heads, which was Kaho's brilliant idea.

I very much hope that we can all support the Nightingale Project because it humanises the environment in hospitals not just for patients, but it also boosts the morale of the staff. Quentin Blake, Britain's leading illustrator and a patron of the Nightingale Project, has been and still is a generous contributor with work in

various places: The C&W Mental Health Unit, the Eating Disorders Service at Vincent Square and the Kentish Town Health Centre. Sir Paul Smith and the artist Camille Walala have also contributed colourful and cheerful designs.

All these great artists owe their creativeness to God and I thank God that he helped me to write this article.

Anne Swift

See also <https://artuk.org/visit/collection/the-nightingale-project-2374>



I was Hungry and You Fed Me...



According to the Trussell Trust, more than 1.3 million three-day emergency supplies of food were given out in 2017. This does not include the many supplies of food given out through the more than 500 independent food banks around the country, or the meals given out through day centres and soup kitchens serving people who are homeless. The scandal of food poverty in our country is something for which we ought to be ashamed, but more importantly, it ought to be a focus for our action and prayer.

At St Mary's we have always used particular seasons of the church to gather gifts of food and other items for the most needy people in our community, Harvest and Christmas being the most obvious. We are properly generous from the plenty that we have, and that is good.

We have begun a new initiative this month, as we have set up a couple of collecting boxes for food and toiletries, which will be in church all the time, so that we can support local work with hungry people on a more regular basis. Many of us already support the food banks when we do our big weekly shop, leaving bags of food in the collecting bins at the large supermarkets, but many of us do not.

We hope that each of us will remember to bring along one or two items of food whenever we come to church, for our collection here. There are flyers in church with a shopping list for your convenience.

Each week those items will be taken and given to one of the local charities involved with feeding and caring for families in need, and other vulnerable people: Glass Door Homeless Charity, St Cuthbert's Centre and Dad's House Food Bank. If you would like to know more about any of these charities, look at their websites.

Jenny Welsh

www.glassdoor.org.uk

www.dadshouse.org.uk

www.stcuthbertscentre.org.uk



Harvest at Paint Pots

We had a wonderful week talking about Harvest Festival with the children. Revd Jenny joined us for one of our circle times and told a wonderful story of a farmer who grew all these wonderful vegetables and wanted to share them with his friends. This led on nicely to a discussion with the children about sharing with others and giving to people who need food. We then invited parents and children to bring in donations to support the church with their

effort to give to charities in the area who help the hungry. We had an amazing response. We collected two baskets full of food and supplies, which we then ceremoniously handed over to Revd Jenny at the end of the week. It was a fabulous experience to work with the church and we very much look forward to more projects later on this term for Christmas.

Jess Llewelyn,
Head Teacher
Paint Pots Montessori School



Macmillan Coffee Morning

St Mary The Boltons held its first Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care on Friday 28 September. Having never held one here before, it was a guessing game as to how many people might attend and how many cakes might appear, but we were blessed with a huge array of cakes and a steady stream of visitors. A mini coffee morning followed on Sunday after the service as we had lots of cakes left. The final total raised across both days was £260.00 (with Gift Aid to add) which was a fantastic result. Many thanks to everyone who baked, ate and donated and we hope to see you again at Macmillan Cancer Coffee 2019.



Please also remember to bring your used postage stamps with a small margin of envelope still round them, to church to be given to the Leprosy Mission who raise money from them. There is a specially marked collection box at the back of the church.

Fiona Parsons



In Flanders Fields the Poppies Blow...

This year in the middle of November the nation will be marking one hundred years since the end of the First World War in 1918. Under the Armistice of Compiegne, the cessation of hostilities took effect at the 'eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month'. At the appointed time the guns on the western front in France fell silent. In England around the same time the ringing of church bells erupted spontaneously across the country, as an outpouring of relief that four years of war had come to an end. Again this year it is planned that bells will ring out all over the country at 12.30 on 11th November, after the main ceremonial events have taken place around the eleventh hour: the two minutes silence, the laying of poppy wreaths, and parades by veterans and other supporters.

Each year the National Service of Remembrance takes place at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Originally the Cenotaph was a

temporary wood-and-plaster structure, but it caught the public mood and the temporary structure was later replaced with an exact replica in Portland stone. It had no ornate decorations, and apart from the dates of both world wars bears only the simple inscription (twice) *To The Glorious Dead*. Its designers certainly knew the power of symbols to ensure that the maximum number of people could gather together in acts of remembrance, untroubled by details of creed or race or nationality. Behind the symbolism of the cenotaph and the tomb of the unknown warrior, behind the singing of favourite patriotic hymns and the reciting of war poetry, there remains a serious challenge: how do we continue to keep the history of the First World War alive for future generations even as it falls out of living memory? Vivid images of atrocities of all kinds are brought to us on a daily basis through all types of media dulling our senses to the real significance of their meaning. In an age when war can be waged by military drones directed from bunkers thousands of miles from the actual theatre of war, how do we continue to honour in a meaningful way the sacrifice made by so many men and women during war, both in the more distant past and more recently? How can we reflect on the real cost of war?

One way of doing this is perhaps to move away from the general symbols and focus again on the particular and on understanding individual stories. At St Mary's, high on the west wall of the south transept (opposite the coffee point on Sunday mornings) there is a simple wooden cross. It is an original Flanders Cross, one of the many that stood row on row in the fields of war, before even the poppies had begun to grow, marking the places where real soldiers buried their dead comrades. Many crosses bore the names of the fallen, but others, like the one at St Mary's, carried a more chilling memorial 'Unknown Warrior'.



Beneath the Flanders cross hangs an oak panel on which are listed the names and regiments of 89 men of the parish who died during the war. Originally this had been part of a triptych with carved figures of St Michael and St George at either end. After the bomb damage sustained by the church during World War Two the panel was moved to its present position, and with the re-ordering of the church in the year 2000, the memorial chapel in the south transept was removed (the altar is now in use as our main altar under the crossing while the carved figures hang in the Vestry). Still on the east wall of the south transept there remain the stone memorials of a further six men who died during the war, while the stained glass window in the nave nearest the pulpit is also a memorial. In St Mary's there are thus 97 named individuals who died during the First World War. To put this number in context, there were approximately 75 weekly communions at the end of the war, not much different from today, although the parish was considerably smaller as it did not include the parishes of St Peter's or St Jude's. Yet 97 deaths means 97 individuals mourned by their families and friends, a loss that must have deeply affected the local community that had to come to terms with an average of two deaths every week for four years.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie



Franciscans International

Franciscans International is a collaboration of Franciscan Orders and Congregations (the Anglican Franciscans are part of the organisation) that promotes and protects human rights and environmental justice at the United Nations. It is a non-profit, international non-governmental human rights organisation established in 1989. Its staff consists of (Franciscan) professionals of diverse backgrounds, using advocacy as a tool to combat and curb human rights abuses. It sends regular free email newsletters to subscribers. A recent communication contained the following prayer, written by Markus Heinz, OFM, the present Director of FI.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Lord, make me an advocate of all those who are discriminated and excluded.

Where people are discriminated because of their race,

Let me advocate for fraternity;

Where people are disadvantaged or persecuted because of their religion,

Let me advocate for religious freedom;

Where people are discriminated because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,

Let me advocate for equality and their dignity;

Where people are treated as slaves,

Let me advocate for their freedom;

Where people are migrating and seeking refuge,

Let me advocate for their protection and security;

Where people are evicted from their land and home,

Let me advocate for compensation;

Where people exploit the resources of the earth for their private interest,

Let me advocate for justice and solidarity;
Where our mother Earth is damaged and polluted,

Let me advocate for the protection and respect of Creation,

Where peoples and nations fight against each other,

Let me advocate for Peace and Reconciliation.

Because it is You, who is present in our Sisters and Brothers.

It is you, who gave us an inalienable dignity as your creatures.

Together with Jesus our Lord and Brother we pray to you:

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.



Jargon-buster:

Words you only hear in church

7. Offertory

People often think mistakenly that the offertory is the church name for the collection, but it is about something even more important.

The offertory represents the first of the four classic actions of the Eucharist: taking (that is, the bread and wine), blessing, breaking, sharing. Nowadays the elements of bread and wine are usually brought ceremonially to the altar by the people, together with the money that is collected.

The Book of Common Prayer, in its strictly Protestant way, avoided any idea that we could

offer anything to God, and narrowed the offertory to mean simply the 'alms and oblations' of the people: alms for the poor, and oblations for the upkeep of the ministry. Our present understanding is far richer, particularly if we understand the gifts we offer to embody all the processes and networks that lie behind the bread we break, the wine we share, and the money we value.



And it is good to remember that the words that the priest often says as the bread and wine are offered – 'Blessed are you...' – have come down to us from the Passover service, older than Christianity itself.

Next month: Catholic

Philip Welsh



St Mary's Christmas Cards for Sale in November

After a long hot summer, it's hard to imagine that we were not so very long ago being hit by the Beast from The East, with the snow and the wind bringing the city and much of the country to a halt. One of our parishioners was not daunted though: the painter Ken Howard has presented us with a wonderful painting of St Mary's in the snow, with the invitation to use the image on Christmas cards to sell to raise funds for our continuing work and ministry. The cards will be available in the next couple of weeks, and will be on sale in church. Please remember to buy your cards here!



There But Not There

Sitting by the Mediterranean Sea and thinking about Remembrance Sunday to write this piece felt a bit incongruous, but then it felt more poignant when I realised that Gallipoli is not a vast distance away. The two World Wars covered and affected a huge amount of Europe and the World, not just the fields of Flanders where so many people were killed. There are cemeteries and graves throughout the world marking the place where human

beings died in the name of duty and principles of humanity and civilisation.

Many people have and will debate and argue the reasons and results of wars, the politics and prejudices, the mistakes and malevolence, but above all we must not forget the people who died there: the soldiers and citizens on all sides of conflict who were following orders, leading their troops, supporting their friends and comrades; people who ate and drank, who laughed and joked, who sang songs and wrote letters, who missed their family, their friends, their home, their country.



www.therebutnotthere.org.uk

At our Harvest Festival, Jenny spoke of the Cornish priest who brought the harvest of land and sea into his church and that this quirk of the Victorian Anglican Church also had cut-outs of members of his congregation who had left his parish. The artwork created by Martin Barraud, which is called *There But Not There* and of which St Mary's is a part, is very similar. Our Perspex soldier is in church to bring back into our community memory those men whose memorials are on the walls in the south transept. Their names are there, but their physical absence from their immediate family is more difficult to appreciate. Perhaps our soldier can remind us that the staggering numbers of people who have been killed in war were real people and not statistics and numbers on the pages of history.

So many people have found family memories during the commemoration of the centenary of

World War One that it seems that as a country the importance of Remembrance Day is stronger and something that now will not dwindle in time. It seems that the respect for our Armed Services is as deeply felt as ever but now something that we are proud of and grateful for, all the time hoping and praying that armed conflict can be avoided and man's inhumanity to man could one day become a thing of the past.

Katrina Quinton



Silent Prayer in Church

The Silent Prayer meetings continue in church on the second Wednesday of each month, 11am to 12md.

The next dates are:

14 November

12 December

These meetings are designed to give an opportunity to join with others for silent prayer and meditation. The space behind the altar is a perfect setting, having a quiet air of spirituality, silence and serenity. We begin with a short reading, then two sessions of twenty minutes in which we sit quietly in prayer or meditation with a short break between. If you are practised in meditation or simply wish to join others for the first time, you are welcome.

*You made us for yourself and our hearts
find no peace until they rest in you.*

St Augustine



Glass Door Sleep Out

On Friday 5 October your intrepid verger joined 350 others and several dogs to take part in the Glass Door overnight sleep out at the Duke of York Square. Impressions of the night:

1. It got a bit chilly at about 2am.
2. A thing that really struck me was the level of street and traffic noise all through the night.

Glass-door runs two night shelters throughout the winter as well as a regular drop-in at the Chelsea Methodist Church on King's Road.

Thanks to generous sponsors £1135 was raised, with a total of £177,000 raised so far by the event. Once again, thank you so much for your support. Who knows, perhaps next year others might take up the challenge.

Dave Ireton



Year's Mind November

Catherin Barclay
Patricia Schleger
Clifford Gregory
Roderick Cooling
Lidia Griggs
Barbara Pratchett
Paul Slaymaker
Harry Davson
Lewis Stainton
Helmut von der Heyde
Windsor Richardson
Clare Ziegler
Frederick Greenland
Mary Taylor
Ken Slater
Tim Raphael
Dorothy Coleman
Malcolm Gregory
Archibald Murray
Tony Thomas
Enid Channing
Dorothy Shuckburgh
John Bassett
Malcolm Gregory
Pamela Greig



Future Services and Events

Sunday 4 November:

10.30 All Saints Sunday

Come and Sing Choir

followed by parish lunch

12.30pm: Baptism of Maxwell and Evie Jones

Tuesday 6 November:

7.00pm: Standing Committee (Vicarage)

Sunday 11 November:

10.30am: Remembrance Sunday

Wednesday 14 November:

11.00am: Silent prayer in church

Tuesday 20 November:

7.00pm: PCC

Verger/Caretaker

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

Churchwardens

Antony Bryceson, 020 7937 1055
 Edward Quinton, 020 7373 6094

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**Safeguarding at St Mary's**

The St Mary The Boltons' Safeguarding Officer is Clair Gordon. Her role is to help us to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. She is the first point of contact for children, adults at risk and other members of the congregation regarding suspicions of abuse and other safeguarding concerns. If you have any concerns, please contact Clair on 07850 944 834. In the event of Clair not being available, Kelly Webb may be contacted at 07971 552 014.

Alternatively, speak to: Sheryl Kent, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 020 7932 1224
 Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) helpline: 0845 120 4550
 Family Lives: 0808 800 222 (Previously Parentline) Childline: 0800 1111.

Children's Champion

The St Mary The Boltons' Children's Champions are Chris and Katie Fowkes. Their role is to ensure that the voices and needs of the children and young people are heard and reflected in parish life. They can be contacted via: children@stmarytheboltons.org.



There is a Hearing Loop in operation at St Mary The Boltons.

Contributions for the December/January *Clarion* (The theme will be 'Christmas and New Year') should be sent to the Parish Office by 26 November 2018.

The PCC of St. Mary with St Peter & St. Jude, West Brompton is a Registered Charity, No 1133073