

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

March 2019

I Invite you... to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Lent is about to begin: the 40-day fast before the great celebration of Holy Week and Easter. This year it is coming late – almost as late as can be – and it has been a relief to keep ordinary Sundays and ordinary time for a while.

It is good to think about Lent before it comes, and to think about how we might keep the season together. Lent is not a solitary season when we take on or give up things alone. Rather, Lent has always been a corporate season, with the purpose of supporting new Christians as they prepared for baptism at Easter. It was a time for what the Prayer Book called 'notorious evil-livers' to do penance to be restored to the fellowship of the church, and when the rest of the congregation would also engage in extra study, prayer, with self-examination and penance in solidarity with new or restored brothers and sisters in Christ.

Here at St Mary's there are lots of opportunities for keeping a good Lent together, and we hope that many of us will join in. There is information about all of them elsewhere in this issue.

If trying to be more disciplined in prayer is part of your Lent, why not do it in company, and join us here in church for Morning or Evening Prayer. We say them each weekday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

respectively, and we are always glad when people join us. In addition, on Tuesdays at 1pm we share the Eucharist together, along with a few people working in the local area.

Almsgiving, as one of the ancient Lent practices, is high on our list here at St Mary's with the Lent Appeal money going to the Charities we support.

The Lent Appeal is being launched on Sunday 3 March. Do join in with that if you can.

Finally, there are also opportunities for some challenging and exciting Christian education and study: the Lent Study Group is a four-session series called *Crossing Borders: Exploring Brexit through the Eyes of Ruth*,

looking at issues such as stereotyping outsiders, being a compassionate community, and what it means to belong to a community. We will meet at the Vicarage on four Wednesdays in Lent, beginning 13 March. There are notices and flyers at the back of church if you want to know more. Speak to me, too, if you would like to join.

Slightly further afield, the ecumenical Kensington Council of Churches Lent Course will run on Thursdays at 7.30pm, commencing 14 March. The theme is The Mystery of God, and meetings will take place in different churches around the northern half of the Borough. There are flyers in church with all the information.

Jenny Welsh



<https://goo.gl/images/o5N55X>



<https://www.saatchiart.com/art/Painting-The-Tree-of-Life-and-Death/909040/3156253/view>

Rooted in faith with openness of thought

The juxtaposition of being rooted in faith and being open in thought has often struck me as a considerable challenge. The image of rootedness implies something that is firmly and strongly held, even fixed and unchanging. At first glance that does not sit easily beside a commitment to being open in thought, which is itself suggestive of being open to change and to new ways of doing things. Also in a month when we are focussing on the 'open in thought' part of our logo, it is somewhat ironic that our main garden, which we proudly present as 'open to the public' is actually closed (albeit temporarily).

However, it is in the garden where we can find a practical example of the interconnection of rootedness and openness. As experienced gardeners know, what goes on below ground is hugely important to what we see and appreciate above ground. Without a healthy root system to extract water and food there can be no growth above ground.

Equally, without leaves above ground open to the warmth of the sunlight to enable photosynthesis, there is no energy for the production of flowers and seeds to maintain the natural lifecycle of the plant. There is, in other words, a perfect and natural symmetry between the roots below ground and the rest of the plant structure opening out above ground.

The image of the garden reminds me too that our church garden is registered with the Quiet Garden Movement, whose stated aim is the nurturing of access to outdoor space for prayer, reflection and rest. The Movement states that its origin flows from the example of Jesus' withdrawal to natural places to pray and his invitation to, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (Mark 6.31). If Jesus regularly and consistently needed such space to just 'be', then so do we. In the space of a quiet garden we can slow down, take time and breathe deeply and thereby help to keep our minds open, refreshed and rested and ready for the challenges life throws at us.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

**Ash Wednesday
6 March 2019**



**1pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of
Ashes**

**7.00pm Choral Holy Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes
Sung by the Choral Scholars Consort
featuring music by William Byrd**

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Turn away from sin and be faithful unto Christ.



**Mothering Sunday
31 March 2019**

**8.00am
Holy Communion**
(Book of Common Prayer)

**10:30 am
Sung Parish Eucharist**
*with
Distribution of Flowers*

All Age Service
All Welcome

**Annual Meeting of the Parishioners
for the election of Church
Wardens
Sunday 7 April 2019 at 12.30pm**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 7 April 2019 at 12.40 pm**

*Light refreshments will be served before the start
of the meetings*

The APCM will be held in just a few weeks' time. This is the meeting where we will receive various reports on the activities of the church and the financial accounts for the previous year; when we are required to elect our Churchwardens and PCC members; and when we appoint sidespeople, as well as an Independent Examiner for the Accounts. These procedures are required by law, of course, and so it may be tempting to see this meeting as a sort of rubber stamping formality, necessary but dull, but it lies at the heart of the accountability and democratic process involved in the governance of the church.

It is also a meeting where we are given the chance to get excited about our church and its ministry and to celebrate the life of St Mary's, and all that we do here. It is the opportunity for us to thank those who have volunteered to serve as Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council members in the past and to elect new people to help us to bring fresh insights into how we use our resources and in how we plan our ministry for the coming year. The Annual Report and the minutes from last year's APCM will be available for examination before the meeting.

Please make it a priority to be there if you can.
Jenny Welsh





Modern Slavery in London: Diocese of London Lent Appeal

On 30 January I attended an inspirational evening at St John's Notting Hill organised by Capital Mass, a joint venture between the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese of London. I particularly wanted to go and hear Bishop Sarah, our new and first female Bishop of London.

Bishop Sarah led prayers and then introduced her 2019 Lenten Appeal, which is focusing on Modern Day Slavery. Bishop Sarah highlighted that after the season of Epiphany – a celebration of gifts – Lent looms as a time of education and instruction, fasting and giving.

Capital Mass has partnered with five charities to highlight the plight of (the estimated 13,000) victims of Modern Day Slavery in London in 2019. The charities are:

- Ella's Home
- Kalayaan
- Rise Project (Children's Society)
- Tamar
- Love 146

I have more information about all these charities should anyone wish to see some publicity. Bishop Sarah highlighted the difficult circumstances and 24/7 nature of the charities' work, and commended their staff, volunteers and clients to our Lenten prayers.

During the evening there were two very different speakers whose talks focussed the mind on the often misunderstood subject of Modern Day Slavery. Selina Stone is a lecturer in Political Theology at St Mellitus College and spoke on the subject of Liberation Theology.

Lysbeth Ford is a retired Police Detective and now leads the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), a licensing authority that was set up in the wake of the Morecambe Bay cockle picking disaster of 2004.

What exactly is Modern Day Slavery? The term broadly covers the subject of People Trafficking, which in turn leads to:

Forced Labour (commonly into agriculture, construction, hospitality, car washes and nail bars), Sexual exploitation, Domestic slavery, Forced criminality (such as petty theft and begging). The 2015 Modern Slavery Act has seen these crimes taken more seriously and there is now a custodial sentence available to the Courts for the worst perpetrators.

The evening was accompanied by some pretty hard hitting videos from people who have survived and escaped from Modern Day Slavery. Some stories that struck a chord with me included a woman who was smuggled from South East Asia to work as a private nanny/housekeeper. She worked seven days a week up to 20 hours a day for six months before receiving any pay. Her 'employer' told her that if she tried to leave she would say she had harmed the baby. A group of eight men were kept living in a one-bedroom flat and working seven days a week in a car wash. Having had their official documents taken from them they were unable to leave or access help.

There is a lot of information available online and through Capital Mass about spotting the signs of Modern Day Slavery and how we are all encouraged to be vigilant in our area. I believe that Bishop Sarah has done well to highlight this dark side of modern urban life and I hope that the important mission to eradicate Modern Day Slavery will be a worthy recipient of our prayers and our giving during Lent.

Joanna Hackett



The Summer Fair: Saturday 15 June

Calling for the Planning Team

Initial planning for this year's Summer Fair has begun with Adam Coulter and Clair Gordon co-project managing for 2019.

We are looking to pull together the enthusiastic planning group that helps make this annual event such a great success and major contributor to the Charitable Pot coffers. If you have helped tirelessly over the years or fancy your first foray into fair planning, please join us on Sunday 10 March after the 10.30am service when we are holding the first planning team meeting. This will be a 30-40 minute meeting to confirm roles and action plans for the next few months.

If you cannot join us on the 10th, but would like to help, please speak with Jenny.

All welcome!

Adam Coulter and Clair Gordon



Teach A Man To Fish

On Sunday 27 January the guest speaker at the Eucharist was Alison Rivett from the Teach A Man To Fish charity, which the parish is supporting this year. Her text follows:

Teach A Man To Fish helps young people in developing countries to gain vital skills that will help them to get a job or to create their own job when they leave school. Young people learn these skills through our School Enterprise Challenge programme that guides

them step-by-step to plan and run a real business in their school.

This is one story of how participating in a school business helped a young person in Rwanda.

At 26 years old, Eliab Habimana Kaddafi is already the founder and manager of 'Kaddafi's Bakery' in Kigali. In his spare time he volunteers as business mentor and pastry chef teacher to young people in his community. Eliab comes from a poor family and used to wash clothes and carry heavy loads for others, 'just to have a plate at the end of the day'.

Eliab decided to set up his own bakery after getting involved in the school business at Kigali's Leading Tvet School. The school was guided by Teach A Man To Fish through the School Enterprise Challenge and set up its own bakery business. It was through getting involved in his school's business that Eliab began to learn how he could set up his own bakery. 'I started my business in March 2017. Now Kaddafi's Bakery is doing extremely well. I can now pay for the salary of five workers, have enough money for my own stall (shop), can reinvest and repair machines when they break, and even have some money left over to save'.

'Starting and sustaining a business requires passion and patience. These are both key for me as I am always looking for ways to build my business further. Self-confidence is also important. My business has won many competitions at sector level and district level, and I am quite sure that my presentation skills and self-confidence were behind these victories. I acquired these skills when I was working on the school-business bakery'.

Although he has expanded his business, Eliab makes sure he always has time to volunteer: 'I teach many young people at sector level to make pastry, and how to make a business from

what they are doing. To date, I have directly supported four people (three boys and one girl) to plan and create their own businesses, businesses which are progressing well. I advise them that running a business requires patience and cooperation, and that it's good to avoid being over optimistic as sometimes things can take an unexpected turn'.

However, Eliab believes his life could have taken a very different turn if he had not followed a path of entrepreneurship. 'My life could have been miserable. Now I am a prosperous man!'

Alison Rivett



Kaddafi's Bakery



Help St Mary's to Help Others

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is 6 March. The Charity Committee is inviting you to mark the season by making a contribution to our Charitable Pot. Many people give up something for Lent. If you do this, the money you are saving can be your Lent Offering. We are providing special Lent Offering envelopes to help you. Please take one. You can also simply make a contribution.

All the information on how to do this is printed on the envelope.

There will be a collection plate at the back of church for casual visitors or anyone who would prefer to contribute this way. As in past years, the Sunday School will be making their offerings with their own Jam Jar scheme. The money that all members of the congregation generously give as their Lent Offering is a valuable contribution to St Mary's Charitable Pot. We thank you in advance for helping in this way.

A reminder that the charities for whom we are raising money this year are: Teach a Man to Fish, the RAHAB Project, Hope Gardens India, Solidarity Sports, the Bishop's Lent Appeal and Compassion UK.

Anthony Williams on behalf of the Charity Committee



Rahab



Restoring All Hope And Belief



St Mary's Lent Course 2019

Crossing Borders: Exploring Brexit through the Lens of Ruth

Most of us know the book of Ruth as a romantic story of the young beautiful woman fallen on hard times, who meets a good man; and after a slightly iffy seduction by her, the man marries her and they have a child. The most well known part of the story is the wonderful declaration of loyalty on Ruth's part as she commits herself to her mother-in-law to go where she goes, live where she lives and worship her God. There is more going on in the story than we may have realised: like the mystery of relationships other than marriage; the trauma of surviving one's children, of childlessness and marriage; of poverty, and of patriarchy. It is also a story of crossing borders between nations, cultures and religions. It is a story about the life of individuals alongside national and international events, and it challenges us with questions of how strangers are welcomed, how stereotyping affects relationships, how compassion can be shown in the midst of political and legal wrangling, and what national identity and belonging to a tribe means in our own time. All these questions are being asked today, as we think about Brexit. It is hoped that this study course will help us to explore these issues together, regardless of how we voted in 2016, or how we hope the Brexit debate will turn out on 29 March.

The course we will use comes out of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. The community has a history of helping people across all sorts of political divides to find reconciliation together, to disagree well about matters of religion, politics and economics, and to recognise their own part in the divisions that damage society. They are also dedicated to prayer, conversation, curiosity and questioning. It is hoped that this course will help us do the same in our place. If you would

like to join this study course, let the Vicar know.

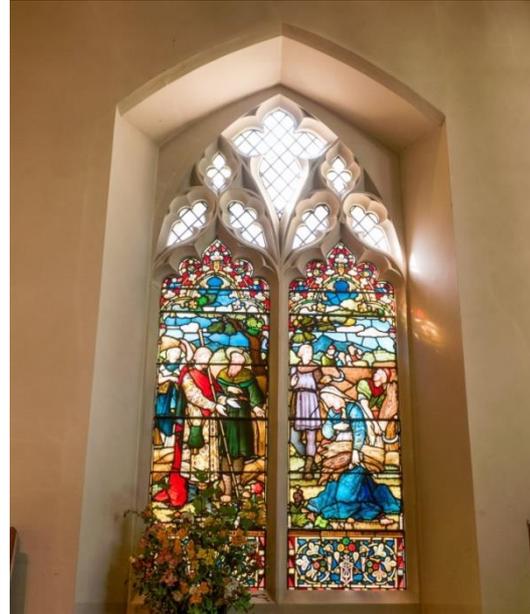
Wednesday 13 March: Crossroads Decisions

Wednesday 20 March: The Migrant Worker

Wednesday 27 March: Who is Family

Wednesday 3 April: A Complicated End

Jenny Welsh



Jargon-buster:

Words you only hear in church

10. Year's Mind

The Year's Mind is the list that many churches like ours keep of people who have died, in order to include their name in the prayers at the anniversary of their death. The phrase is an ancient one, going back to Anglo-Saxon times, and came into use by the Catholic church as part of the practice of arranging annual requiem masses for the souls of individuals. The Anglican church has often been uneasy about prayers for the dead, largely in reaction to pre-Reformation abuses, and sometimes reflecting the view that the eternal welfare of those who have died is beyond the power of prayer to change.

This seems to reflect a crudely mechanical understanding of prayer as a way of trying to manipulate God, rather than a deeply-felt way of holding anyone for whom we pray in the presence of God, whose love is greater than the power of death.

Four hundred years ago John Donne reminded his hearers that the universal church is more than just the church throughout the world – the church in the present – when he used the traditional distinction between the church militant (on earth) and the church triumphant (in heaven), and spoke of ‘a communion of saints which makes the militant and the triumphant church one parish’. The Year’s Mind is one expression of this.

Philip Welsh

This series is now concluded.



St Mary's Year's Mind Book. Photo: Max Noak



Sunday School News

We are delighted to report that Little Lambs – the group for babies/pre/early-schoolers that runs during the 10.30am service – has started again this term. We are starting off with one session per half term, but if the demand is there, we will do our best to put on more sessions. A parent will need to accompany

their child(ren) to Little Lambs. The sessions aim to be a relaxed and age-appropriate introduction to Christianity, with simple Bible stories from the Candle Toddler Bible, a simple related activity (colouring, face painting, play dough etc) and toddler friendly songs and music making. We had our first session before half term: it was really well attended, seemed to be enthusiastically enjoyed, and was appropriately chaotic and noisy! Our next session is on Sunday 3rd March, so do come along with your little one if you are around. The dates for next term are not set yet, but will be confirmed in due course. Look for further notices in the Pew Sheet.

Jenny Welsh



Out in the Garden

Spring is always an exciting time in the garden as it comes to life again after winter. Buds swell and burst, green shoots break the surface of bare ground, and tender white, blue and yellow flowers smile in the spring sunshine. This year, however, the garden on the south side of the church, which usually brings such pleasure, is closed. It is a construction site, muddy and chaotic. Apart from the rockery, just a few plants remain and certainly no spring flowers.



This is still a hugely exciting time in the garden. For the work now being undertaken will bring a new garden to life. There will be a new winter flowering cherry on the right side of the main entrance to the church to balance the

magnolia on the left, and a re-laid pathway along the south side. The rockery has already been opened up by the removal of the trees and shrubs that had outgrown the site. The wisteria has been professionally pruned and re-fixed around the south porch. The main border beyond will be brought out to the path at either end to enclose the lawn, which is to be re-laid and have permanent edging installed to bring definition to the shape. Four medlar trees will add height to the border without blocking light in the church. The completely replanted border will also feature some of the many plants mentioned in the Bible, while six new benches will be installed. They will be outside the south porch and along the fence, while the small armchair seats will be re-located along the south wall of the south transept on new paving with a small area of planting at either end.

The renewed garden will truly be a place for rest, reflection and prayer, and after the disturbance caused by the current construction work it will once again be a worthy member of the Quiet Garden Movement.

Leo Fraser-Makenzie



The Electoral Roll

The St Mary's Electoral Roll is currently being fully revised and a new Roll created. Every Church must revise fully its Roll every six years. Everybody who wants to be included on the new Roll is required to complete a new Electoral Roll Application form. *It is not possible to simply move a name from the current Roll to the new one.*

To join the Electoral Roll a person must be over 16 years of age and baptised. They should also either live in the parish or have worshipped at the church regularly for at least six months. They should also be a member of the Church of England, or any church 'in communion' with the Church of England. 'In communion' means either belonging to a church that is part of the Anglican Communion or any church that believes in the Holy Trinity. In addition they must be prepared to declare that they are a member of the Church of England as well as belonging to that church.

(Blue) Application forms are available at the back of the church. Once completed, please place them in the specially marked 'Electoral Roll' box. Completed application forms must be received by *Sunday 10 March*. *If you do not return a completed form then your name will not be included on the new Electoral Roll.*

Fiona Parsons



Works in the Garden

Pictures by David Ireton



March Services and Events

Sunday 3 March

Sunday next before Lent
Come and Sing choir
12. 15pm Parish Lunch. £5 donation
per person to cover costs
12.15pm Baptism of Phoenix Buchanan

Tuesday 5 March

No Eucharist today
7pm PCC in Church

Wednesday 6 March

Ash Wednesday
1pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of
Ashes
7pm Choral Eucharist with Imposition
of Ashes.

Friday 8 March

10am-2pm Second Half Club

Sunday 10 March

Lent 1
Electoral roll closed

Tuesday 12 March

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 13 March

11am Silent Prayer
7.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage

Friday 15 March

10am-2pm Second Half Club

Sunday 17 March

Lent 2
11.45 Third Sunday Forum
Electoral Roll available for examination
and correction

Wednesday 20 March

7.30pm Lent Group at the Vicarage

Friday 22 March

10am-2pm Second Half Club (last in
term)

Sunday 24 March

Lent 3

Tuesday 26 March

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 27 March

11.15am Service at St Theresa's
Nursing Home, Roland Gardens.
7.30pm Lent Group

Sunday 31 March

Mothering Sunday
10.30am All Age Eucharist with
distribution of flowers

Sunday 7 April

Passion Sunday
12.30 Annual Parochial Church
Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners



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:

13 March

10 April

8 May

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.
[Give us grace to listen well.](#)



Year's Mind March

Maureen Stainton
Ivy Cooling
Gerth Millar
Olive Smith
Rhoda Bolton-Dignam
John Gairdner

Verger/Caretaker

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

Churchwardens

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

St Mary's Church Bank Details

Account name:
PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude
Account number: 80692190
Sort code: 20-80-14

Director of Music

John Ward 07853 406050
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Stubbs 020 7835 0074

Assistant Treasurer

Bill Gallagher 020 7384 3246.

Electoral Roll Officer

Fiona Parsons (call Parish Office)

Gift Aid Secretary

Philip Bedford Smith
giftaid@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Clarion Editor

Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263
v.tschudin@btinternet.com

Reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias' School

Sheila Gibbs 020 8788 9744

Social Secretary

Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

Sunday School

children@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

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 April/Easter Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 24 March 2019.

The theme is 'Reaching Out'

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

Corrections:

On page 2 of the February issue of *The Clarion*, the acknowledgement was missing. This should be: Don Bosco Sanctuary, Brasilia.
cronkitenews.azpbs.org
The photo on page 16 was taken by Max Noak.