

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

April 2019

Reaching out in Service

I was privileged many years ago to visit Mozambique on a parish trip. We were hosted by local parishioners who were generous in opening their homes to us, giving us comfortable beds to sleep in, shared their wonderful food with us, and by word and action gave us an education on how to live like Jesus. Before every meal, someone would put a towel over their arm, and holding a basin in one hand, would pour water over our hot and dusty hands and wash them. No one had washed my hands with such care (or even at all) since I was a child.

It brought to my mind that account in John's gospel in the upper room, the night before Jesus died, where he did the same for his friends: sharing the meal that we remember and relive each

Sunday morning, and washing not the disciples' hands, of course, but their feet. John tells us Jesus took a towel and some water and knelt before them, as they gather round the table for that final meal. With that, he showed them how to live like him.

Each Maundy Thursday (this year it is on Thursday 18 April) we relive that moment as we are invited to have our feet washed; not just playing it out but living it out as Christ's disciples, gathered round the table and hearing the command of Jesus, who said, 'I have set you an example, that you also should do what I have done for you'.

We, in our chilly climate, do not know much about hot and dusty feet, at least not at this time of year, and the prospect of bearing our soles as well as our

souls makes us uncomfortable, and so we get stuck there, worrying that unlike the one who brings good news in Isaiah, our feet may not be so lovely. We miss the point if that is where we stop. Jesus was not just showing his friends how to be served by him, but commanding them to be servants as well, for each other, to love one another as he loved them – wholeheartedly, sacrificially and to the end. Service and love are intertwined and inseparable.

Our theme this month is Reaching out in Service and I hope it rings bells with you, as we come to Maundy Thursday this year. As disciples who relive that moment each year, Jesus' command is for us too. So it is time for us to ask ourselves as a community, what will that service look like here at St Mary's? What will it mean to be servants to the

people who come through our doors on Sundays, perhaps in church for the very first time; perhaps returning, having been bruised and rejected in the past? What will it mean to love them the way Jesus does: sharing food, welcoming in, praying for them and serving them, too?

The image in the centre of this page shows us the scene. The motley group of the 12, in all their variety: there is Peter, taking an extra piece of bread; there is John, with Jesus' hand resting on his shoulder; and there is Judas, looking back at us, with his moneybag slung over his shoulder; and there is the jug of water, ready for Jesus to put it to use. Where are we? Where are you? What are we going to learn this Holy Week about how to live like Christ? *Jenny Welsh*



Historical Museum Basel, Barfüsserkirche. Abendmahlsszene, *Umkreis des Meisters* (the circle around the Master) by Ottobeuren, Oberschwaben, ca. 1525. Lime wood carving.

Reaching Out in Service

To me, a Reach is a long stretch of water where you can see what is coming and going and your way ahead is clear to view. Then there is the verb to reach – immediate contexts jumping to mind are to arrive somewhere as in ‘reach your destination’, or to stretch for something, to put in an extra effort to achieve your goal, and when you then add the suffix ‘out’, this portrays even extra effort. It is a strong word, yet it seems incongruous when it is used in modern parlance and in a more floundering context.

When someone reaches out, it is not vague, it is a strong action – to reach out for assistance, to reach out to offer help – you know what you want or need to do. In a way the noun and the verb seem to contradict each other: one is a clear and uncomplicated route, the other portrays making an extra bit of effort, but they are both direct. Both seem equally valid when considering the phrase ‘Reaching out in service’.

I liked this drawing by Rembrandt immediately. There is something poignant in its honesty, simplicity and close observation of humanity, which is deftly portrayed by a few strokes. It is the figures behind Jesus that get my attention: the observers. It is the angle of the head that makes you feel they are saying to themselves ‘Now what is he doing?’ and ‘Why him?’ of the penitent man. There is a sense of bafflement. Jesus, however, is quite calm, this is nothing special to him, it is just what he does, it is what he can do and so he does it. His action is a confident one. For Jesus it is easy, for his followers less so, for us it seems, even less so.

Does it have to be difficult or do we, as a dear friend once told me, ‘think too hard’ about reaching out? Are we worried about all the ‘what ifs’ and what might be perceived and what others might think? Perhaps we should have more courage in our natural conviction to reach out. To offer help is a normal

reaction of the civilised being and we should all smile in our hearts and allow it to happen.



google.com Rembrandt ‘Healing of the Leper’

In a recent conversation I had, we were talking about how different people approach life – and we agreed that some were Worriers and some were Wingers. This led my mind (never one to stay on-track) to angels and guardian angels who are often thanked for being there at the right moment. Perhaps we should borrow from the angels when it comes to reaching out in service, and be Wingers and not Worriers.

Katrina Quinton



Recipe for Inner Peace

Many of you, I suspect, will have one of Delia Smith’s cookery books on your shelves. The same practical, uncomplicated advice that she gives for cakes and casseroles, characterises the writings in which she shares her Christian faith with readers.

In the forward to her book *A Feast for Lent*, Bishop Victor Guazelli writes that ‘many people for whom the Bible is a mysterious and uncomfortable book may be encouraged by her meditations to read [the scriptures] for themselves.’

In this little book Delia chooses forty short passages from the Bible, one for every day of Lent. A brief reflection follows, showing how applicable such texts may be to our daily life. She ends with a short prayer, taken from the Psalms. Revealing an extensive knowledge of the Psalms, she finds an apt quote for each topic chosen.



Michelangelo's *Pietà*, www.google.com

Her selected passage for the 5th Sunday in Lent begins:

'Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest... learn from me... for I am gentle and humble in heart' (Matthew 11). Why, she asks, was it necessary for Jesus to go into the wilderness to consider his future direction? Because it is sometimes necessary to be completely free of distraction. Our stress is exacerbated by noise, everywhere apparent; from background 'musak', aircraft and traffic; screens, (and since the last edition of *Feast*, the tinkle of emails and the ping of text messages arriving). There is a line in Mark's Gospel that epitomises the message of Lent for me: 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while.' Why did Jesus say this? Because 'there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat' (Mark 6:31).

Lent is a time to get off the treadmill and to examine our situation. Being burdened with normal daily activities and providing for and running a home and family is one thing; but being over-burdened is quite another. Being too pressured puts strains on our health and on our relationships and, above all, is a huge block to growth in faith and knowledge of God.

Some carry burdens in the name of some God that they misunderstand. They give in to demands made on them in an attempt to placate this peculiar imagined God, 'as though loving my neighbour were something to be accomplished by flexed muscles'.

Jesus has something to say to people on the treadmill: 'Come to me, learn from me. Let me teach you how to love your neighbour, and then you will find my teaching will make the whole process easier. Why? Because I will teach you how to really feel love and to give to others easily and naturally. I can teach you to say 'No' when it's right to say 'No', without feeling guilt. My yoke is easy and my burden is light.' With the only words in the Gospels that Jesus uses to describe himself, he invites us to be like him 'gentle and humble in heart.'

A Feast for Lent is available on the internet.
Mary-Gabrielle Blanchet



Butter lambs

In our family we have a custom of making butter lambs as gifts for Easter, and sometimes also for Christmas. My grandfather gave one to each of his six daughters (one of them my mother) every year, which he had made himself, spending many hours doing so. He had learned how to make them from his mother, who had to make a number for the gentry in

whose service she worked as a housekeeper. Apparently the rich landlords then gave the butter lambs to their friends as gifts. My grandfather had become a great expert at making these little creatures.

Butter lambs are also a custom in Russia, Slovenia and Poland, where they still exist. Even a market in Buffalo, New York, still sells butter lambs, but made with lamb-shaped moulds or shells. In our family the tradition has now gone via my mother to my sister, to her daughter in Colombia and one son, whose own children, now living in California, make a lamb for Easter.

Making a butter lamb first of all requires that it is made in a cool place, where the butter stays firm. The construction of the body is shaped from a block of quality butter – my great-grandmother would necessarily have used butter that she had made herself – special attention being paid to the head, face and ears. The ‘wool’ is made by pressing the butter through a stiff sieve and fluffed up with a knitting needle. Allspice berries are used for eyes.

A final touch of a daisy or two to sit on, or a sprig of parsley in the mouth give the buttery gift a cuddly look, but perhaps it is not possible to eat it, really, because it looks too cute. For instructions on how to make butter lambs, please get in touch with me.

Verena Tschudin



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 14 April

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Parish Eucharist
with Procession of Palms

Monday 15 April, Holy Week

1pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday 16 April

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 17 April

1pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday 18 April, Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Sung Eucharist with Footwashing and short Vigil

Good Friday 19 April

10.30am, The Stations of the Cross suitable for families, followed by hot cross buns in the Hall

1pm Music for Good Friday

2pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Reading of the St John Passion and the Proclamation of the Cross

Holy Saturday 20 April

Church open from 7am - 7pm – no services

Easter Day Sunday 21 April

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Festal Easter Eucharist with 8-part choir combining the Choral Scholars with professional singers and music by Mozart and Handel



The Summer Fair

Planning for this year's Fair is well underway. The flyers and posters are being designed and the Pimms sponsor is secured. We are auditioning for musicians; the children's magician and the petting zoo are booked. Stalls are being organised and orders for the strawberries, cream and scones are being prepared.

We have an enthusiastic planning team, but need everybody's help to make the Fair a very happy and successful occasion. The Fair is the major contributor to our Charitable Pot, so we need to raise the maximum amount of money possible.

Please let Clair Gordon know if you will be able to help on the day with setting up, helping on a stall, or selling raffle tickets. The e-mail is clairgordon@aol.co.uk, phone is 07850 944 834, or you can call the Parish Office.

As always, we need both sponsors and items to sell, so please think about being a sponsor for large or small items, by covering the cost of any of the things we need to pay for, from the music, sausages, scones, to the glitter for the kids tattoo artist. Or please donate any of the following:

Home-made cakes, breads, jams and marmalade;

Quality bottles for the tombola that will encourage people to put their hand in the drum;

Drinks of any sort, and you can be as imaginative as you like;

Prizes for the Raffle and Auction;

Good-as-new toys and games;

Quality and undamaged items for the Bric-à-brac stall (no clothes or electrical items please);

Second-hand books in good order (no magazines or text books)

The Summer Fair is St Mary's biggest opportunity to open our doors to the local community. Please tell your friends and neighbours about the Fair, and why not bring the whole family along for a fun afternoon; Jenny is putting in a special request for the sunshine! Many thanks to you all
Adam Coulter and Clair Gordon



The Stewardship Campaign

We are grateful to all the people who responded to the Stewardship Campaign held in February. Whether you were one of those who made a generous increase in your regular giving to St Mary's or a one-off donation, or even if you recorded the fact that you were unable to do anything more at present: thank you!

I received over 40 responses and the overall effect was an increase in regular giving (including new standing orders) amounting to £13,480 per annum, together with one-off gifts totalling £7,650. As well as some very generous responses included in these figures, we have received a lot of positive feedback about St Mary's and the place it has in the affections of many church members. We must be doing something right and, with your prayers and continued support, this will continue as we look forward to the opportunities and challenges we face in the months ahead.

Philip Bedford Smith
Planned Giving Secretary



Capernaum: a Film of our Time

Capernaum is a remarkable film and not only because it is from Lebanon, a country that is not known for its film making. Unlike many films in the cinema to-day it does not look back and tell a historical story. It tells a very contemporary story with heart and intelligence. *Capernaum* is inspired by to-day's Beirut and the city's vast population of Syrian refugees. As I write, Shamima Begum is in the news almost daily, having now lost her third child. She is reported as saying, 'This is really not a place to raise children, this [Syrian] camp'. Why then, did she become pregnant?

The film addresses this question, which is not usually aired in public: why do people bring



babies into the world in terrible circumstances in countries mired in strife and poverty. On television all too often we see families with several babies or young children in circumstances where there is no quality of life, only suffering and hardship. The story of one such family is told in this film through the eyes of a 12-year old boy called Zain. Unlike his parents or siblings, Zain is one of those children who somehow strive to overcome the situation they are in. He has a sense of decency and tries to do the right thing. When he is unable to prevent one of his sisters being effectively sold to an older man as a child bride, he runs away. We see him struggling to find food and shelter in the worst areas in Beirut. He is befriended by a single mother and becomes her very young child's carer so she can work. When the mother is arrested as an illegal refugee, Zain is left alone with the child, doing his best to look after him. He ends up in prison from where he sues his parents for continuing to have children when they cannot take care of them.

The director of the film did a huge amount of research to make it as realistic as possible. All the actors came from backgrounds similar to those portrayed in the film. Zain is played by a 12-year old Syrian refugee. The picture took six months to film and two years to edit. The result is a very powerful saga. It is not a polemic and does not have any answers. All it can do is show why adding to the world's population without regard to the welfare and future of their offspring is a such a cruel thing for parents to do. The film is not light entertainment, but the way that Zain copes with his life is so powerful that the film does not send you home depressed. Sadly, the adults who should heed the message will most likely never see the film. All we can do is pray for enlightenment and a better life for everyone caught up in conflict in that part of the world.

Capernaum was given a 15-minute standing ovation at last year's Cannes Film Festival and won the Jury Prize. It is the winner of several other awards and was nominated for many more, including Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Academy Awards. This was a fully justified nomination and in my opinion the film should have won. It is an exceptional piece of film making; far more so than *Roma*, which received plaudits and was given the Oscar.

Anthony Williams



<https://www.google.com/search?q=Capernaum+movie>



Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin at Fulham & Chelsea Women's Institute

My WI prides itself on the calibre of its guest speakers, and this month was no exception with a visit by Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, Queen's Chaplain and regular speaker on BBC Radio 4.

Revd Hudson-Wilkin was invited to speak about her fascinating life story, her personal journey in faith and her many current roles, including the daunting task of being responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of 650 members of parliament.

She was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and was brought up by her extended family, living an idyllic childhood surrounded by good role models, especially women in leadership roles and most of all by people who 'looked like me'.

Rose felt the calling to ministry from a young age, but it is very difficult to understand a calling when it is to something that does not actually exist. As with all good decisions in her life, Rose decided simply to hand over her future to God, and she travelled to the UK to train at the Church Army College, which at that time had women in ministry roles. While there, she met her husband Ken, who now works in prisons ministry and the couple have three children.

Rose was ordained Deacon in 1991 and Priest in 1994. She described her ordination as a wonderful experience, but also tinged with great sadness, as looking around she could not help noticing the many older women present at the event, who had no doubt given most of their working lives to the service of God, but for whom the new rules had simply come too late. Rose said she never ceases to be grateful to live at a time when her ministry is not only permitted, but encouraged.

The rest of Rose's talk described her struggle for acceptance that accompanied her throughout her career. She met discrimination and abuse her entire working life, but continues to dust herself down and pursue her calling to act in love and peace, always trying to maintain a sense of humour. As well as her two chaplaincy roles, Rose has made it her personal mission to speak of the Good News at every opportunity. She is passionate about visiting inner city schools and is determined that young black people see more people who look like them, in public life and in leadership roles.



When asked about her most celebrated role as Chaplain to the Speaker, Rose spoke of her passion for faith being more visible at the centre of British life. Under her direction the multi-faith room in the House of Commons has been refurbished and is now much more used. The Speaker's Chaplain leads prayers every day that the House is sitting, and she also conducts weddings and baptisms for House of Commons staff.

At the end of her talk it was a privilege to have a Q&A session with Rose. It was a delight to meet such an enthusiastic and warm hearted Christian leader.

For the interest of any ladies who might want to join Fulham & Chelsea WI, we meet once a month at the Hollywood Arms, and we always welcome new members.

Joanna Hackett



Rembrandt's elephant

In a large room at the top of the British Museum there is an attractive exhibition (until August) of etchings and drawings by Rembrandt. What caught my eye was a small picture of Adam and Eve. Eve is holding the apple, as yet untasted, and a brooding serpent is looking down from the tree. Two things surprised me. The first was a tiny sketch in the background – so insignificant that I did not

notice it at first – of an elephant. Why did Rembrandt put an elephant in the Garden of Eden? It does say that God created every beast of the field and commanded Adam to name them, so I suppose the artist might as well put an elephant there as anything.



<http://illustrationart.blogspot.com>

The other thing was much more obvious. Rembrandt's Adam and Eve were not youthful and nicely-built, as we expect. They were starting to show their age, and more than a bit saggy. They did not look like models; they looked like us.

That is the point. Adam (meaning 'the man') and Eve (meaning 'life-giving') are not the first man and woman: they are the archetypal man and woman. Once we stop thinking about them as characters in a long-superseded account of human origins, the story comes to life as an exploration of human nature. It takes us into basic questions about innocence and experience, the price of moral responsibility, the cost of growing up, and much more. It is the story about original sin, whatever we may mean by that unfashionable doctrine. Maybe that is the elephant in the room.

Philip Welsh

Second Half Club

At the end of January, and in conjunction with Open Age and the Second Half Foundation, St Mary's began hosting a weekly activity programme for the over 50s in church on Fridays from 10am-2pm. The day began with the Digital Eagles from Barclays providing 'tech' help for people armed with their smart phone or tablet etc. and a query or two. There then followed an hour of group singing and then an hour of chair yoga. A sandwich lunch followed with everyone sitting around the table eating and chatting together. Some people came for just one of the activities; others came for the whole day.

This has been a new venture for St Mary's and while not many people from the congregation have attended, the Second Half Club has got off to quite a positive start with a good number of people from the wider community attending and numbers have risen in recent weeks. The yoga class is particularly popular as several of the people who attend also go to classes run by the same teacher at other venues across the Borough.

The club has now stopped for the Easter break, but the summer term resumes on Friday 3 May and runs until 19 July (no session on 31 May). There will be one change to the programme; instead of singing from 11am-12md, there will be a Pilates for Beginners class instead. A charge of £1 per person per session is applicable for Pilates and yoga, but there is no charge for the Digital Eagles or lunch.

If you are over 50 and have not tried the Second Half Club, please do think about coming along and trying one of the activities, or just come for lunch! For further details please speak to Fiona Parsons or Jenny, and look out for flyers at the back of church.

Fiona Parsons

**Summer Term 2019:
3 May-19 July
There will be no classes on Friday,
31 May – Half term**



10.00-11.00 am

Digital Clinic

Build Your Computer Confidence

One on one advice for all levels

Bring Your Own Device (mobile phone
iPhone/Android, iPad, Laptop, Tablet etc)

Delivered FREE by Barclays  Digital Eagles

11.00-12.00pm Pilates (£1)

Delivered by Open Age (RBKC charity)

12.00-1.00pm Chair Exercise Class (£1)

Delivered by Open Age

Build flexibility, balance, strength

Lunch Generously provided by Pret à Manger

1.15-2.15 pm

Game Time Free

Refreshments offered throughout the day

Contact: vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
020 7835 1440



April Services, Events and Readings

Tuesday 2 April

1pm Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing, anointing and laying on of hands

Sunday 7 April Passion Sunday

8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP) 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist. Come and Sing Choir

Readings: Isaiah 43.16-21;
Philippians 3.4b-14;
John 12.1-8

12.30pm Annual meeting of Parishioners

12.40pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 9 April

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 10 April

11am Silent Prayer

Sunday 14 April Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.20am Liturgy of the Palms and Procession (from the Garden)

10.30am Holy Eucharist and reading of the Passion.

Readings: Philippians 2.5-11;
Luke 22.14-end of 23

11.50am Third Sunday Forum (transferred)

Monday 15-Friday 19 April, Holy Week

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

1pm Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 18 April

7pm Sung Holy Eucharist with Foot-washing and Vigil

Readings: Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14;
1 Corinthians 11.23-26;
John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday 19 April

10.30am The Way of the Cross for children and families (followed by hot cross buns)

1pm Music for Good Friday

2pm Liturgy for Good Friday and Proclamation of the Cross

Sunday 21 April Easter Day

8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Festal Choral Eucharist

Readings: Acts 10.34-43;
1 Corinthians 15.19-26;
John 20.1-18

Monday 22 April Bank Holiday

Church closed

Sunday 28 April Easter 2

8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist

Readings: Acts 5.27-32;
Revelation 1.4-8;
John 20.19-end

Preacher The Revd Robin Morrison

11.45 Summer Fair organising meeting



Silent Prayer in Church

The Silent Prayer meetings continue in church on the second Wednesday of each month,

11am to 12mid.

The next dates are:

10 April

8 May

12 June

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



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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.

The Garden Project

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

Contributions for the May Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 19 April 2019.

The theme is:

Worshipping and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

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

