

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

May 2019

Worshipping and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

I May is the feast day of St Philip and St James. The New Testament lesson at Evening Prayer that day is the story of how Philip, having met Jesus, goes to his friend Nathanael and says 'we have found the Messiah, Jesus from Nazareth'. Nathanael is sceptical; he cannot believe that anything good could come from Nazareth; Nazareth is in the wrong part of the country, full of the wrong sort of people, not the kind of place where Messiahs come from. Yet Philip

persists: 'Come and see', he says, and Nathanael does. That encounter with Jesus changes his life.

The theme for this month's *Clarion* is 'Worshipping and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ', one of the phrases from our Mission Action Statement. That statement is really about what we hope

people will discover when they respond to our invitation to 'Come and see' as we work to fulfil the commandment of Jesus to love God and neighbour, by worshipping and proclaiming the good news of what God is doing here at St Mary's, in the wider church and in the world.

Many of us feel shy about talking about our faith and discussing matters to do with religion because we feel unequipped with the right words, or we worry that people might think it odd that we go to church

or say our prayers or believe in Christ; the thought of being evangelists in that sense is rather daunting. We have all in our own way responded to someone else's invitation to come and see, whether as children or as adults, and so one question for us is what did we discover when we did? When we first came to church, what was there that drew us, and then kept us? Was it the friendliness of the people we met? The exquisite music? The erudite preaching from the clergy? Was it an escape or a coming home? Was it an encounter to change our life?

It is a good question to reflect on as we think about the good news we want to proclaim, because it leads us to think about what those who come along to our church might see and experience here at St Mary's.

If you were to invite a friend or family member to come and see what goes on here, what will they

find? We hope that the experience will be friendly, beautiful, with a message that is profound and provocative; we hope that unlike Nathanael they will not dismiss the church as a place where the commandment to love God and neighbour is obscured by scandal or complacency. What will they find? Will they discover a place they can belong to and flourish, and have their life changed too?

Jenny Welsh



<https://marshmk.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/jesus-calling-philip-and-nathaniel.jpg>

Proclaiming the good news...

I can still remember staying up late on Easter Day in 1993 to watch the exciting final round of the US Masters golf from Augusta, Georgia. What made it really memorable for me was the interview that the winner, Bernhard Langer gave to the worldwide TV audience as he was presented with the coveted green jacket. When asked what made his victory special, he said (after talking about the golf): 'it is always a great honour to win the greatest tournament in the world, and especially on Easter Sunday, when my Lord was resurrected'.

In a secular context, I believe this brief but brave word of personal testimony would have made as much impact as any Easter sermon preached to a packed church earlier on the same day.

Philip Bedford Smith



Bernhard Langer. www.augusta.com



In Praise of Maundy Thursday

I am writing this on Good Friday. I had not expected to be doing so. I had no intention of writing anything about last night's Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper. It was a very moving, very special service, with sadly a very small congregation. During the service I felt that it should not pass unmarked and the wider congregation should know about it.

On my journey through life and my spiritual journey, both now quite long, my worship began with Sunday School. It moved to Matins and then the occasional Sunday morning Holy Communion. As the Church of England liturgy developed with the main Sunday service becoming a Eucharist and then a Sung Eucharist in many churches, I travelled with it. Participating in this service became increasingly important to me. Receiving the Elements is a physical link with Christ and his teachings. The reliving of the Last Supper with the bread and wine becoming symbolically his body and blood is the most sacred part of a Eucharist. Gradually I began attending Maundy Thursday services, which celebrate the founding of a Eucharist service as many of us know it to-day. To me it has become as important as the great services of Christmas and Easter. To be reminded, and to some extent relive, the suffering of Jesus and his crucifixion makes the joy of Easter Sunday and the Resurrection even greater.

I have now attended many Maundy Thursday services. Last night's service at St. Mary's was the most perfect I have experienced. Jenny had prepared a truly meaningful liturgy. John Ward and his choir provided music that powerfully and sometimes very movingly, enhanced every part of the service. It was hard to remember that St Mary's is just a small parish church. Every word that was spoken, every hymn that we sung, every piece of music and singing by the choir could not have been more relevant. The Vigil last night was the Gospel of the Watch. It began with a reading and as we sat in the 'Garden of Gethsemane' in the south transept, a Lamentation. It ended with another reading. It was different in an affecting way.



Pope Francis washes the feet of some inmates at the Paliano prison <https://religionnews.com/2017/04/13/on-maundy-thursday-pope-francis-washes-the-feet-of-12-prisoners/>

While it is wonderful to welcome so many people who rarely come to church other than on the great days of Christmas and Easter, the solemnity of the Maundy Thursday service, attended it seems only by committed believers, provides a completely different atmosphere. I cannot guarantee that next year's service will be as wonderful as last night's. I would like to think that a much greater number of our wider congregation will want to find out, and that there will be twelve of us who will come forward for the Washing of the Feet.

Anthony Williams



Beating the Bounds of the Parish

Do you know where our parish boundaries lie? Find out by 'beating the bounds' of the parish on **Sunday 26 May, Rogation Sunday**, when we shall walk the parish boundary after church. This follows the ancient tradition of the English Church on the Sunday before Ascension Day, and was an occasion for asking God's blessing upon the land (rogation means asking) and for confirming the boundaries between different parishes.

The 'beating' may refer to the treatment that was offered to young parishioners at key points on the walk, to ensure that the rising generation had good reason to remember where the limits of their parish lay. We shall probably forego this custom, but Rogation processions were always cheerful occasions, and we shall certainly finish our parish perambulation with drinks for all at the Vicarage (which, as we shall discover, scandalously lies several yards *outside* the parish).

We leave the church at 12 noon, and the distance is about 2½ miles; an easy hour's walk at a steady but not athletic pace (walking shoes advised). Please sign the list in church if you hope to join us, as a guide for refreshments.

Philip Welsh



A boy being bumped at the parish boundary. <https://www.llantrisant.net/index.php/freemen/beating-the-bounds>



Ways of Receiving *The Clarion*

Did you ever receive *The Clarion* by post and do not receive it now? Or do you know someone who did or might now benefit from a mailed paper copy for the price of the postage? Do let Max in the Parish Office know as this is one possible way of keeping in touch with St Mary's that is not current now.



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



Westminster Abbey Events

Westminster Abbey's spring series this year is called *Justice* and includes a public lecture series about the idea of justice in the 21st century, and whether a just society is possible. Lectures are free, but spaces must be booked. To find out more, look at the website: www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/the-institute/public-programmes#i16968



Churches of the Artic North

Adam was invited again to Norway to review two Cruise Ships and we were extremely fortunate that we could join him. I was determined this time to visit the churches of Norway on this visit.

We ran the gauntlet of the travel to the airport and trying not to lose Rafferty through security. Last time he had packed a bullet key

ring in his trunkie and it almost shut down Gatwick.

We arrived in Oslo to wonderful snow, staying one night there and headed for the Cruise Ship the next day. From the outside these Norwegian Ships do not look as glamorous as the huge ships, but they need to be made of hardy stuff outside. Inside was cosy and the cabins were lovely. The first ship was going around the North so full of snow and huge mountains.

Our first excursion was to the Artic North. It is the most northern place in Europe one can go to. The tourists all headed to a monument to take selfies. I had learnt that there was a Chapel there underground: the most northerly Chapel in the whole of Europe.

After paying about £60 for two hot chocolates, two coffees and two doughnuts (Norway is eye wateringly expensive) I headed to the route underground. There was a slope downwards to this tiny Chapel. It was very elegantly designed, very small with candle lamps hanging from the ceiling and a lovely altar. As ever there were people filming and selfie taking, but I had a moment alone. I said a prayer for my mother who died at Easter and a prayer for St Mary's. Because it was underground, it had a very calm, snug feeling. I thought how wonderful it would be to be there after everyone had gone and pray and reflect. I am glad I was able to visit Europe's most northerly place of worship, certainly for Christians.

We next stopped at Hammerfest and I walked up the hill to another church. The boys played in the snow in a playground: Rafferty content that he could finally hurl himself around manically. The sun was shining and there was snow all around. The church was perched on the top of the hill. There is a great deal I learnt about this church which I can't squeeze into

my 500 words. A small nugget is that the cemetery chapel is the only building that was left standing after the Germans destroyed Hammerfest in the withdrawal from Finmark in the winter of 1944/5.

We got off the first Ship in Tromsø. I finally visited the Artic Cathedral. It was wonderful, but I was disappointed that I could not go in. I realised that not every church as a 'Dave' to ensure a church is open.

On the second cruise ship in the south, Rafferty and I went on an excursion through the Atlantic Highway. It was memorable for two things: I paid a London mortgage for a beer and a glass of coke, but I also visited my first Stave church: a church built by the Vikings and still worshipped in today. I could write 500 words about this church, too, but simply say it was beautiful: wooden, ornately decorated and had a 250-year-old small wooden ship hanging from the ceiling.

Visiting these places of worship was wonderful and they all appeared to be thriving. The fact that a 700-year-old Stave church has a service every Sunday I hope is comfort to us all.

Kelly Webb



Lom Stave Church, www.google.com



Famous stories, then and now

Karen Harrison is offering a short Bible study season based on famous Old Testament stories. She says, we all remember Noah and the Ark or Daniel and the Lions, but when did you last read the text? How do our memories of the stories and their place in popular culture/consciousness really relate to the Scripture on the page? Do these differences give us any insights for our daily lives and/or a new appreciation of the stories?

Please come, share and read.

Held on Wednesdays 8, 15, 22, 29 May and 5 June at 7.00pm at Karen's home.

A sign-up sheet will be in church or confirm directly with Karen on nuzashto@yahoo.co.uk

Karen Harrison



Thank you

The Prayer Network, and through it the whole Parish, has been praying for Christine for some months now. Her uncle, Raymond Kyle, had asked that her name be placed on the list of people to pray for. She sent a card to the Network with the request that it may be published in The Clarion.

My name is Christine, the niece of Raymond Kyle. When I heard that Uncle Raymond had requested for you all to pray for me, I was deeply touched and blessed. Through the power of your prayers and God's grace I am delighted to be cancer-free. My cancer journey was a combination of fear, anger and self-pity, but through prayer and a mighty God I gained courage, even with the simple things like overcoming a fear of needles. I am so grateful for the guidance that God had given to the medical team to act, though it seems a very dramatic step as I thought at the time, but soon found out after my surgery that these

actions saved my life. God has taught me to be patient, also as I am on a long waiting list for further procedures of reconstruction and it will be done when the Lord feels the time is right. [God] also helped me to endure the many unpleasant side-effects of a 5-year plan on tamoxifen; I have completed two years already. I do get down sometimes and feel sorry for myself, but God always reels me back in again and helps me to be positive and grateful. I am so blessed with a wonderful medical team that continue strict observation over me. I felt the need to write and tell you of what your prayers have meant and done for me. I am sure uncle Raymond will update you from time to time on how I am doing.

Thank you all so much.

God Bless.

Christine Kyle



Our Sunday School

While the congregation is deep in thought, faith and prayer every Sunday, the small members of the congregation (and some now not so small!) are attending Sunday School. Sunday School is therefore out of sight of the congregation, but an essential part of the community of St Mary's.

As a parent of a child or children, one of the challenges of attending church is what to do with your children. You do not wish to have children wriggling around in a service, but more importantly, the best way to capture children's hearts and minds is to make it interesting, fun and involved. The Sunday School at St Mary's achieves all the above. Under the stewardship of Kate and Chris, children can learn faithfully each week and also have some fun.

St Mary's had a bumpy few years after Ginny left and at times the congregation was in deep discussion and occasional division due to the decisions it had to take. Sunday School, however, continued regardless. I was on the PCC during this period and I reflected many times on the good fortune for us at St Mary's that Katie, Chris, Alexandra and Claire kept ensuring that Sunday School carried on as normal every week.

Jenny arrived and I have to say, gave us all a new lease of enthusiasm. Jenny is well aware of the importance of the young minds in attendance and I am always struck by her consultation with the Leaders, which makes sure they all feel valued and involved.

We sadly lost Judy, Julie and Jess: wonderful leaders for the Sunday School, but the other Leaders have continued. I joined in order to support and assist as a Leader.

Sunday School is not just about having fun. All the Leaders make sure that every week there is a lesson from the Bible or discussion about a Reading or the Gospel. Years ago, there was perhaps more of a crèche-like approach. Kate and Chris have ensured that the focus is now very much on faith and what this means to the children.

The challenge is to ensure that new families with young children come to Sunday School

and remain attending. There has been a shift in the regular attendees' children. Many of them are now confirmed or will be, and as Leaders we are considering how best to re-focus our efforts to new families.

Judy once said that it is essential we have Sunday School every week in term time, which I strongly agree with, whatever form it takes. It is so important to help guide the minds of the children as the quotation says 'Give me the child for the first seven years and I will give you the man' (A Jesuit maxim widely attributed to Ignatius Loyola).

Kelly Webb



Two Ways to Reach out in Service

On nearly all our literature, our web site and the *Clarion*, we proclaim that St Mary's is committed to 'reaching out in service' (see *April Clarion*). The challenge is to know how we can also do this individually. One way is by our charitable giving. This enables the organisations we support each year to help people who we could never reach ourselves, who are in some form of need. A large thank you to all members of the adult congregation and the younger members in our Sunday School who took part in our Lent Offering appeal. If you have not yet handed in your Offering envelope, please do so as soon as you can.

Our Charitable Pot can never be too full, so here is another way you can help it grow: with our 'Host a Charities Meal' scheme. You simply invite people you know, ideally not other members of the congregation, for any meal. It could be breakfast, lunch, brunch, afternoon tea, supper or dinner: whichever or whatever meal you would be happy to host.



google.com Rembrandt 'Healing of the Leper'

Decide on a price for the meal that you think would be appropriate for each guest to pay. You do not have to provide a Michelin standard feast, but if you do, these days, you might be able to charge anything up to £70 a head. Wow!!

Anthony Williams

On behalf of the Charity Committee



Christian Aid Week (12-19 May) at St Mary's



Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of more than forty British and Irish churches. The charity works to support sustainable development, stop poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia including the Middle East.

St Mary The Boltons has a long association with Christian Aid and has supported this important charity over many years, mainly during Christian Aid Week, the charity's key

focus week in mid-May, which produces up to a quarter of the charity's annual income.

There are plenty of ways that you can get involved with raising funds for Christian Aid's work in 2019. Here are just some of the events taking place at and around St Mary's. If you would like more information on any of these please speak to Joanna Hackett.

Bake Sale: On Sunday 12 May we will be holding our ever popular cake and produce sale after the 10.30am service. Please do bring along any homemade goods such as cakes, bread, savouries, jam and marmalade to sell, and/or please bring your money to make a purchase.

Circle the City: This sponsored walk around the churches of the City of London is a Christian Aid institution and draws walkers from all over the UK. This year it takes place on the afternoon of Sunday 19 May. Joanna Hackett and Jenny Welsh plan to do the walk and would be delighted to be joined by any other and/or sponsored people; there are sponsorship forms in church.

Publicity Display: There will be a display of Christian Aid publicity in church during May. Please look at this information and feel free to take it away to read at your leisure. Particular campaigns being highlighted this year include the high neonatal mortality rate in Sierra Leone and the typhoons and flooding destroying the coastal fishing industry in the Philippines.

Donating: In the lead-up to Christian Aid week there will be various collection tins in church for contributions to the charity and you can also donate online at

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Thank you

Joanna Hackett

May Services, Events and Readings

Wednesday 1 May

11.15am Communion service at St Teresa's Nursing Home, Roland Gardens

Sunday 5 May, Easter 3

10.30am Holy Eucharist, Come and sing Choir, Baptism of Arnold Palmer.

Readings: Acts 9.1-6
Revelation 5.11-end
John 21.1-19

Parish Lunch

4pm Blessing of Civil Marriage of Ryan and Olivia Taylor

Monday 6 May Bank Holiday

church closed

Tuesday 7 May

1pm Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing
7pm PCC in church

Wednesday 8 May

11am Silent Prayer

Saturday 11 May

Sunday School and Family trip to Barnes Wetlands

Sunday 12 May Easter 4

10.30 Holy Eucharist with guest speakers from Solidarity Sport.

Readings: Acts 9.36-end
Revelation 7.9-end
John 10.22-30

12.30 Baptism of Karen Harrison and Alex Sewell.

Tuesday 14 May

1pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday 19 May Easter 5

10.30am Service followed by Third Sunday Forum

Readings: Acts 11.1-8
Revelation 21.1-6
John 13.31-35

Christian Aid 'Circle the City' Walk

Wednesday 22 May

7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation and licensing of Churchwardens

Sunday 26 May Easter 6 and Rogation Sunday

10.30am Holy Eucharist

Guest preacher Revd Jenny Petersen, Minor Canon of Westminster Abbey

Service followed by Rogation Walk, Beating the Bounds

Readings: Acts 16.9-15
Revelation 21.10,22-22.5
John 14.23-29

Monday 27 May Bank Holiday

Church closed

Tuesday 28 May

1pm Holy Eucharist

Saturday 1 Jun

2pm Wedding of Cedric Fiez-Vandal and Lyn Taggart

Sunday 2 June

10.30am Holy Eucharist and Baptism of Leo Colomb

Come and sing choir

Readings: Acts 16.16-34
Revelation 22.12-14,16,17-20
John 17.20-end

Parish Lunch



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:

8 May

12 June

10 July

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



Year's Mind May

George Godbolt

Helene Stockton

Frances Vernon

Grenville Lake

Ronald Palin

Charles Tait

Noel Santanna

Jean Garraway

Patricia Behr

Richard Dowbiggin

Norman Griggs

Richard Branston

Rosemary Hulse

Martin Hulse

Paul Newall

Ivor Porter

Edward Hamilton

Richard Hopkins

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Eucharist, BCP

10.30am Sung Eucharist

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

Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.30am

Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

except Public Holidays. The weekday Eucharist is on Tuesdays at 1pm in the chancel.



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Reverend Jenny Welsh

vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

020 7835 1440 (Day Off Thursday)

07864 807959

Director of Music

John Ward

boltonsmusic@gmail.com

07853 406050

Parish Administrator

Max Noak 020 7835 1440

office@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Tuesday: 9am-4.30pm

Wednesday – Thursday: 9am-2pm

Friday: 9am-4.30pm

020 7835 1440

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

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

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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.

Hell took a body,
and discovered God.
It took earth,
and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was
overcome by what it did not see.

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are
annihilated!
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are
cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

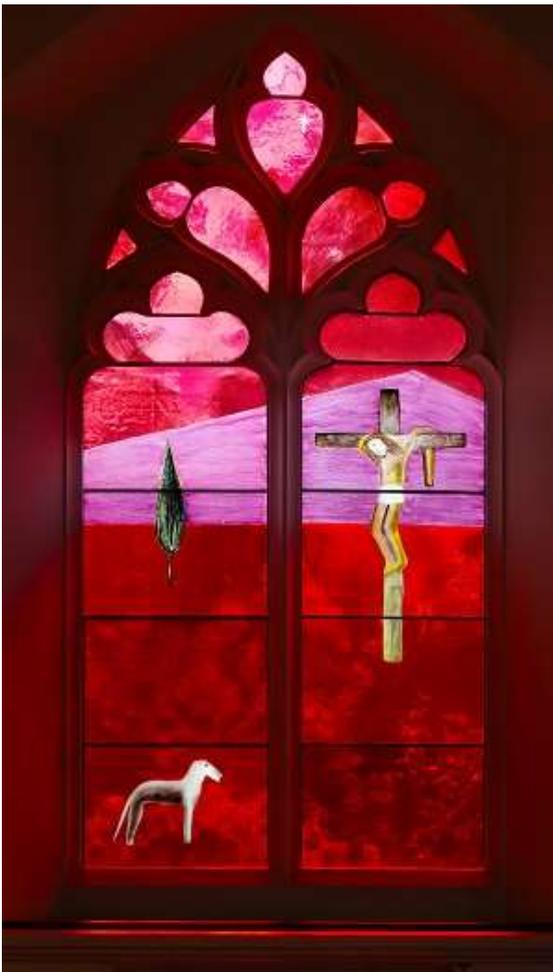
Christ is Risen, and the tomb is
emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those
who have fallen asleep.

From St John of Chrysostom's Easter Sermon

His is the love which makes the star bright.

*A reflection on our stained glass window
by Sister Wendy Beckett from April 2018.*

All his life Craigie Aitchison, who claimed not to be 'religious', was transfixed, almost obsessed, by the image of the crucifixion of Jesus. It summed up for him the whole horror of humanity's cruelty, our cruelty, and the pure love of a God who would accept such an agonizing rejection.



This wonderful window is one of his very last attempts to this truth: he died some months later. He sees the whole world soaked in the blood red of violence, a vision which stained glass is peculiarly able to make real. Even the great mountain, which he paints so often, is tainted.

Only the innocent remain uncontaminated, true to their sinless selves: the bright star, the green tree, the animal, as usual represented by his beloved Bedlington terrier.

They draw their clarity from an innocence far greater than their own Instinctive goodness.

Jesus is Innocence made man, with nothing within Him except love and compassion. Sin has tortured all substance from his holy body. He dangles lifeless from one boneless arm. His hair has lost the lustre. His face its colour, even its very features.

Here is Love completely given, no drop left to show the full-blooded reality of our Saviour.

Yet even crushed, as a thing cast way, Jesus radiates. His is the love which makes the star bright, the tree so upright and verdant. The little dog is puzzled yet stays faithfully beside the cross.

May we be changed to glory there too.



Wendy Beckett (born 25 February 1930, died 26 December 2018), better known as Sister Wendy, is a British nun, hermit, consecrated virgin, and art historian who became well known internationally during the 1990s when she presented a series of documentaries for the BBC on the history of art.



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

**Contributions for the June Clarion should
be sent to the Parish Office by
24 May 2019.**

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