

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

June 2019

June Theme: Supporting All in Their Journey of Faith Through Teaching, Discussion and Study of God's Word

Watery Thoughts

Words from our Archdeacon in his Charge to Churchwardens this year: 'Whenever I come to St Mary's, it feels like I am coming to a limpid pool, where there is peace and stillness and quiet'. It was a lovely remark, especially on a hot day when we had all been running about to get ready for the service. We recognise how important stillness and quiet are in a busy city like ours, and so we are glad that people who visit find us so. Our Christian lives depend on our learning to be still and know the presence of God, and our church is a good place to learn that, I hope.

At the back of church, where the Archdeacon's team were sitting, however, what they heard was not 'limpid pool', but 'Olympic pool', which gives an altogether different image, and I wonder if there is something in that to reflect on too. St Paul's image of the Christian's life of faith being one of striving, discipline and focus like an athlete training for the Games also has its merits, even if he was not thinking of the 400m freestyle, but running along a track instead.

The truth is that our faith needs both: many of us live very busy and stressful lives during the week, and are glad to find a church where we can find rest and refreshment Sunday by Sunday. Rest can so easily become dull and that limpid water become

stagnant if it is not replenished with something fresh and new.

Currently I am taking a short course called Youthscape, for vicars in churches like ours where ministry to young people – particularly teenagers – needs strengthening. The goal of the course is to enable clergy and their PCCs and youth/children's leaders to develop a new strategy for youth ministry that is sustainable and supported, so that our youngsters can be trained in their faith, to be able to call themselves Christians, not just in church on Sundays, but when they are in school or with friends, away from church. Perhaps there is a bit of an Olympic

dream, but we are well on our way, here at St Mary's. We have a good Sunday school programme led by some excellent leaders, and about 25 children on the register, some of whom are confirmed. The rising number of teenagers in our midst and their friends are going to need more, and so we need to be imaginative in how we support them so that they can move from

padding about in the shallows to confidently swimming in the deeper waters of Christian life.

There is a conversation to be had about how we do this together, of course, and I hope that if you have thoughts about it, either as adults or as young people, you will share them with me. There will be a chance for anyone who is interested to come with me to the final session of Youthscape on Wednesday 10 July at 7pm. Please speak to me if you would like to know more.

Jenny Welsh



https://www.absolutearts.com/portfolios3/c/cuffari/Big_Splash-1210036230m.jpg

The End of the Beginning

On Sunday 12 May I gatecrashed Alex Sewell's baptism. He and Jenny had generously allowed me to add myself to the occasion at short notice.

I had learned that I could not provide the documentary evidence necessary to allow my Confirmation to proceed. I was baptised (allegedly) over fifty years ago in a rural Kirk in Ireland by the Free Presbyterians. My mother (the only surviving witness to my knowledge) can remember buying a new tablecloth for the subsequent tea, but when asked if there was any paperwork, said (to paraphrase) (i) it was over fifty years ago (ii) it was in another country and we/she has moved a dozen times since and (iii) the Free Presbyterians are not much into cards or registers (the clue is in the name).

As it turns out, Anglicans have a fix for this situation. There is a 'conditional baptism' service comprising 'IF you have been baptised before, I baptise you again...' You have to admire the commitment to bureaucracy of over five centuries of Establishment! And so, I found myself at the back of St Mary's after the main Sunday service, weeping gently into a paper tissue hastily provided by Jenny at the beauty and enormity of that little smear of oil and splash of water.

Despite being christened for cultural reasons, I describe myself as 'raised secular'. My father was an atheist and although my mother is a church-goer, it is amazing how one voice prevails. My milieu was with people who opposed religion to education and saw the Divine as a 'God of the gaps', or an 'imaginary friend' for those not strong enough to face the world alone.

As an invalid child, I developed a model of the complete human as a three-legged stool, a balance between intellectual development

(which I could do from my sickbed), physical development and social development (neither of which I could really experience until I was in my teens, and with which I have struggled ever since). I was in my twenties, in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, when I first met sophisticated, educated people who also prayed, five times a day. I evolved my model to that of a four-legged chair: the intellectual, physical and social also required the spiritual development to be a complete human.

What started as a quest for my own humanity became a relationship. Belief is a muscle. As I leaned into and onto it, I found myself answered and nurtured: through discussions with Muslim friends in Indonesia, through prayer and study with missionary friends in Bulgaria, through fellowship and action with the United Church of Christ in Miami, through the guidance and welcome of Jenny and the community at St Mary's. God has guided me across the world to teacher after teacher.

May 2019 marked one year unemployed, my five-year cancer sign-off, and fell just after the second anniversary of my father's death. All true endings are also beginnings. Baptism is the ultimate expression of that truth.

Karen Harrison



Kerzen Zimmermann, www.google.com



Admission of Churchwardens

On Wednesday 22 May, our churchwardens, Edward Quinton and Antony Bryceson, having been re-elected at our APCM in April, were legally admitted to their office at a service in church, by the Archdeacon, the Venerable Stephan Welch, and Sue Kelly, representing the Diocesan Registrar. Yet, how many of us know what our churchwardens are supposed to do? Their duties are manifold and weighty: they are to represent the laity in their parish church, cooperating with their incumbent; they are to encourage parishioners in the practice of true religion; promote unity; maintain order and decency in church and churchyards (especially during Divine Worship); and care for the property and ornaments and all moveable objects of the church. We are fortunate in our churchwardens who have carried the burden given them with grace and humour, and I am grateful for their support and cooperation over the course of the past two years.

County Records No 123
Churchwardens' Presentments
1662
Volume 4
For Forty Parishes
Between Warrminster, Salisbury, and Downton



Wiltshire Family History Society

www.genfair.co.uk/suppliers/wil/wfhsda4_123

That ceremony, though, was not just a legal requirement, but was set in the context of worship and praise, and it was our privilege here at St Mary's to host the service. It is apparently the first time it has happened here, and so we were very pleased when the

Archdeacon asked if we were willing. What a joy it was. Around 80 churchwardens from the Kensington Episcopal Area came, along with a few vicars, and many supporters. Many were at St Mary's for the first time, which meant that we were able to show off our beautiful building and gardens, as well as give people an opportunity to hear our choral scholars singing a couple of exquisite anthems. Many people admitted to taking away ideas for their own churches: a hymn they had never sung before, a new piece of choral music, a way of using space in their own churches.

There were lavish refreshments afterwards, prepared by a team of cooks, servers and pourers, headed up by Margarete Geier. One thing that we do better than many churches is share food and drink with generosity as an act of welcome and celebration.

Thank you to all who helped make this event so successful, and a great thank you to Edward and Antony for their faithfulness to their office, and to St Mary's too.

Jenny Welsh



PCC Meeting 7 May

The vicar opened the meeting with a short prayer. Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Jackson, and recently voted-in members were welcomed. Retiring members were thanked for their service. All members were requested to complete the necessary trustee declaration documents in order to hold the office. With the previous meeting's minutes having been duly signed off, the meeting turned to an update on the Stewardship initiative, the results of which are expected in due course. Upgrading of the telephone system was further discussed; the future implementation will result in a meaningful cost saving. The current safeguarding report was presented. It is also available in the 2018 annual report. The next audit is planned for September. Rolling online training continues, especially for the people involved with Sunday school activities. Continuing appointments for PCC Treasurer, Redcliffe Gardens Trust, Treasurer and PCC Secretary were unanimously agreed.

On the financial front, Carolyn Stubbs presented the first quarter accounts to the committee. Discussion focussed on reconciling pension contributions and consolidating one of the existing trusts. Prudent management of the trusts was a focal point. The assets of each trust are held as deposits in various Church of England investment funds and garnering modest investment returns as they are currently exclusively held in cash. In light of the Church's current shorter term capex needs, it was agreed that 70% would be re-invested in longer term assets and the remaining 30% remain on deposit.

Joanna Hackett kindly agreed to continue as a chalice bearer and an additional bearer is to be approached. Looking at matters of the fabric of the Church, the garden project is now complete and the necessary parties are being thanked for all their efforts leading to such a

fantastic result. The Archdeacon of Middlesex visited on 22 May for the admission of Churchwardens. At the operational level, the central drain repairs are now underway and the boiler in the vestry will need to be replaced in due course. Given the cost and urgency of these remedial works, the kitchen refurbishment project is currently on hold although initial discussions are taking place.

Looking to the future, the Vicar brought The London Anglican Church's 'Vision 2030' initiative to the committee's attention and comments were encouraged prior to the annual 'Awayday' in September. St Mary's will also be hosting the Borough's Women's World Day of Prayer in March 2020. The Vicar will also engage in a training programme at Youthscape and has also been invited to be Students Chaplain at St Mellitus. Both of these initiatives are a key part of St Mary's ongoing engagement in the local community. The meeting closed on a lighter note as the committee took the opportunity, over a glass of champagne, to wish the vicar a Happy Birthday.

The next PCC will take place on 9 July.
Alex Burt





Summer Fair, 15 June, 12-4pm

The St Mary's Summer Fair is now only a few weeks away and activity is hotting up in the organisers office! We are looking forward to welcoming many of you. The Summer Fair is St Mary's biggest opportunity to open our doors to the local community, so please tell your friends and neighbours about the Fair and why not bring the whole family along for a fun afternoon.

Much is now in place, thank you to those who have been a part of this, but as always, it is never too late for sponsors and we very much need items to sell. Please do think about being a sponsor, large or small, by covering the cost of any of the items we need to pay for, from the music, to sausages, scones and 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, but 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)

You can bring items to church, ideally from Sunday 9 June, but please speak to the Verger if you need to deliver earlier.

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.

07850 944 834

clairgordon@aol.co.uk

or call the Parish Office

Many thanks to you all

Adam Coulter & Clair Gordon



Queen Victoria: Faith, Lace and Linen

Queen Victoria's 200th anniversary of her birth was on 24 May: a few days ago. I have always been fascinated by and admired this remarkable queen because of her close ties with Germany, her uncomplicated but strong belief in God and also because she kept a diary throughout her long life.

From this diary we learn not only about her childhood and her relationships with her husband, children, politicians and herself as head of a vast empire, but also about her faith and her talent as a meticulous housekeeper who kept an inventory of what she owned.



As an antique textile dealer and member of St Mary's, it seems fitting to me to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth

with an exhibition at our Summer Fair on 15 June. Come to the South Transept of the church when you come to the Fair. Come and be amazed.

Anne Swift



The Choral Scholars

One of the most important developments at St Mary's in the past year or so has been the introduction of our Choral Scholarship Programme. After an initial six months trial period, and with the blessing (and funding) of the PCC, we began in earnest to recruit a quartet of singers who were to help support what our Director of Music calls 'a mixed economy' of music for our worship. Our four scholars this year have variously sung as a quartet, singing both classical liturgical settings of the Eucharist and anthems, acted as soloists and cantors, and augmented the Volunteer Come and Singers.* We think our musical standard here at St Mary's has been raised considerably by their participation; certainly on Sundays the singing from the pews has been more enthusiastic, and we have been able to tackle some new hymns with their strong lead. Each of the scholars came with a view not just to add to our worship, but also to gain experience in choral and solo singing within a traditional church setting, improve their own singing and sight reading skills, and help our

volunteers to stretch their own repertoire and abilities.



L to R Daniel Vening, Bethan Thomas, John Ward (Director of Music) Kate Lowe, Josh Kerr

Quite properly, as the end of the academic year approaches, John Ward and I have invited each of the singers to review how the experience has been, apart from the musical progress and learning that each has achieved. It is great to be able to report that they have all said that St Mary's was a great place to sing, week by week, that they have enjoyed participating in the worship, that they have particularly enjoyed getting to know the congregation, and have been made very welcome.

Sadly, at the end of the summer term, our Bass, Daniel Vening, is moving on, but we are pleased that the other singers, Bethan Thomas (Soprano), Kate Lowe (alto) and Josh Kerr (tenor) will be staying for the next academic year. We are now starting to search for a new Bass to join the scholars in September.

Jenny Welsh

*Have you thought about joining the Come and Sing Choir? Why not have a word with John Ward about what is involved? All ages welcome, youngsters included. It is a great way to help to lead our worship and a lot of fun.



Sing to Live, Live to Sing at St Mary's

Wednesdays 12.30noon – 2.30pm from 29 May till the end of term.

Did you know singing can help to improve breathing, relieve stress, develop core muscles and improve posture, as well as boosting confidence, encouraging a feeling of belonging, and improving overall mood?

Sing to Live, Live to Sing is a relaxed, fun, free singing programme initiated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council's Arts Service in partnership with Public Health. This term they will be coming to St Mary The Boltons on Wednesdays, beginning 29 May, before they move to their permanent venue in the autumn.

Singing is a fantastic tool to support our health and wellbeing, so whether you are a first time singer or a dab-hand, come along and give Sing to Live a go!

Workshops take place weekly during term time and are run by experienced singing teachers. Open to all RBKC residents aged 18+. Register by going to www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/culture/sing-live-live-sing or ask for a form at your first workshop.

Please note, in order to gather information to support our funding we ask new participants to complete a health and wellbeing questionnaire. All singers are also invited to complete a short follow up survey at the end of each term.

Website: www.rbkc.gov.uk/singtolive

Email: Arts@rbkc.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7361 3844

Programme Co-ordinator: Miranda MacFarlane
miranda.macfarlane@rbkc.gov.uk | 02073613844



Time piece

My watch stopped recently. During the day or two until it got fixed, it was chastening to find how often I glanced down at my empty wrist. I survived by using my travelling clock, with its digital display, and my father-in-law's old wristwatch (minus strap), with two moving hands and no numbers.

Each timepiece gave me a different experience of time. The clock gave me numbers to read, telling me the exact time in the present moment. The hands on the watch gave me a shape to look at that showed me what had gone before, and what was still to come. For the clock, time was a point; for the watch, time was a process.

The clock was about punctuality, a word that literally means being pointed. The watch was about movement, the kind of time that can be spent, passed, kept, wasted, redeemed or killed, which has duration. As it happened, the watch was an Omega, 'big O', the last letter of the Greek alphabet.

This was the letter Jesus used to say that he is Lord from the beginning to the end of time: 'I am the Alpha and the Omega.' Alpha is the first Greek letter, built into the very word alphabet. If you had an old-fashioned education, it was the mark you hoped to see at the end of your essay. If you study jungle animals, the alpha male is the dominant member of the group. If you go to our neighbouring church of Holy Trinity, Brompton, the Alpha Course is the popular Christian basics course that they have pioneered.

Alpha is a great name for a course that is about beginning the Christian life, as well as suggesting that the material is excellent. And as it happens, the celebrity face on its posters is alpha male Bear Grylls.



www.newsypeople.com

It is good to have my own watch going again, but I am glad of the thoughts that were prompted by the day that time stood still. My digital alarm clock told me the time. My old watch showed me the time. That makes it a better teacher. A kind of Omega course.

Philip Welsh



Art Installations in the Venice Ghetto

One of my favourite books of recent years is Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, a vast story of one family's European history from eighteenth century Odessa, via *fin de siècle* Paris to 1930s Vienna. The book has transformed de Waal from (in his words) a lowly potter crouched at his potter's wheel to international literary stardom and go-to man on the history of the diaspora. This is a role that weighs heavily on a shy and retiring artisan, but when I saw a lecture advertised about his art installation in the Venice ghetto as part of the Biennale 2019 I knew it would be fascinating.

De Waal had been approached to create two art works in his signature porcelain; one at the

Spanish synagogue and the other at the Ateneo debating house. I was fascinated by de Waal's description of the Venice ghetto: formed in 1516 and therefore the world's oldest. Christian Venetians were swept out of the 'island' site and all Jewish families were forced to take up residence on the small square that had just two bridge entrances, with a strict curfew and guards patrolling the edge by gondola.



As is often the case in such circumstances, Jewish life in Venice flourished for the next century and a half. By the mid fifteen hundreds there were five synagogues in the square and, as the population increased, so the already cheek-by-jowl buildings went up and up, causing one celebrated visiting Rabbi in the 1600s to claim excitedly that from the lofty synagogue he had actually 'glanced the sea, or it might even have been God'.

De Waal's commissions are entitled *Psalm* and *Ex Libris*. *Psalm* sees the beautiful clean lines of his porcelain pots delicately and thoughtfully installed at the very top of the Spanish synagogue. At the launch, a celebrated soprano sang Ravel's *Psalm 137* in Hebrew, which is that great song of exile about the rivers of Babylon; almost certainly the first occasion a women's voice had been heard to ring out in that place.



Ex Libris is de Waal's response to lost literature everywhere. His installation of simple shelving and porcelain table provides a stunning backdrop for displaying books of exiled writers. Visitors are encouraged to make suggestions to be added to this library. Around the walls, de Waal has inscribed the names of lost libraries of the world, from his great-grandfather's classic library looted in 1939, to the libraries of Timbuktu, Aleppo and Mosul.

I do not know the city of Venice, but should I go there I now know a visit to the Jewish quarter to be an absolute must. De Waal's *Psalm* installation of porcelain pots is a permanent exhibition and will continue to stand proud at the synagogue long after the Biennale crowds have gone. *Ex Libris*, the magnificent haunting book display, will travel on to Dresden library in the autumn and the British Museum next spring.



I have only seen these artworks on film, but their quiet dignity is something other-worldly and I encourage anyone to get to see them who possibly can. De Waal said 'My project takes places that have been overlooked... and it brings the Ghetto into the heart of the biennale'. It certainly does.

Joanna Hackett

The map: www.freewalkinvenicetours.com
 The pots: <http://www.museoebraico.it/en/psalm-edmund-de-waal/>
 The bookcase: www.wallpaper.com/art/edmund-de-waal-psalm-venetian-ghetto-venice-biennale



June Services, Events and Readings

Saturday 1 June

2pm Wedding of Cedric Fiez-Vandal and Lyn Taggart

Sunday 2 June Sunday after Ascension

8am Holy Communion BCP

10.30am Sung Eucharist with Baptism of Raphael Colomb

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

Come and Sing Choir

Tuesday 4 June

1pm Holy Eucharist, with prayers for healing and anointing

2.30pm Funeral of Betty Brookhouse

Wednesday 5 June

12.30-2.30pm Sing to live, Live to sing

Sunday 9 June Pentecost

8am Holy Communion BCP

10.30 Sung Sung Eucharist

Readings: Acts 2.1-21
 Romans 8.14-17
 John 14.8-17

Tuesday 11 June

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 12 June

11am Silent Prayer

12.30-2.30pm Sing to live, Live to sing

Saturday 15 June

12noon – 4pm Summer Fair

Sunday 16 June Trinity Sunday

8am Sung Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Sung Eucharist Guest Preacher:
Reverend Russell Winfield, St Mellitus College
Readings: Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31
Romans 5.1-5
John 16.12-15
Third Sunday Forum

Monday 17 June

12noon Funeral of Greg Pilkington

Tuesday 18 June

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 19 June

12.30-2.30pm Sing to live, Live to sing

Sunday 23 June Trinity 1

8am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Readings: Isaiah 65.1-9
Galatians 3.23-end
Luke 8.26-39

Wednesday 26 June

12.30-2.30pm Sing to live, Live to sing

Sunday 30 June Trinity 2

8am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am All Age Eucharist
Readings: I Kings 19.15-16,19-end
Luke 9.51-end
Sunday School Family Picnic

Sunday 7 July Trinity 3

8am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Sung Eucharist
Readings: Isaiah 66.10-14
Galatians 6.7-16
Luke 10.1-11,16-20
Come and Sing Choir
12.30pm Baptism of Rupert Cox

Silent Prayer in Church

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

The next dates are:

12 June
10 July
14 August

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

*To reach the place where Christ awaits us, we need to be prepared for long periods of silence and quiet, long enough for our doubts to dissolve, our cares to lose their urgent pressures, our uncertainty to give way to trust (B. O'Rourke, *Finding our Hidden Treasure*).
Anne Swift*



Year's Mind June

Joan Palin
Pamela Shaw
Gary Davies
Britta Osbahr
Leslie Stone
Leonard Berry
David Dixon
Malcolm Goddard
Evelyn Davson
Madge Terry
Grahame Challen
Hugo Garten
Marjorie Cooling
Kenrick Prescott
Gisela Osbahr
Doreen Allen



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.



Vicar

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

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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

Account name:
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:



(Photos: David Ireton)

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

Contributions for the July/August Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 20 June 2019.

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

