

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

December 2019/January 2020

Happy New Year

Happy New Year: the new Church's year begins on Advent Sunday, one of the many ways it seems that the Church is out of step with the rest of the world. Pity the poor souls who have to wait a full month before the secular new year celebrations take place. I quite like the way the Church's time steps out of line, because it helps to remind us as people of faith that all times belong to God, and as the psalmist says, our times are in God's hands.

That said, the thought of a new year is one that stirs many of us and in different ways. Think of the people you know who honestly want 2019 to be over. It has been a hard year for many people who have struggled with

sickness, bereavement, insecurity around employment, housing, immigration status, domestic instability. The new year has got to be better, they say, rather hopefully. Then there are those fortunate people who have had a pretty good year one way or another, and who anticipate further success, further good fortune, further prosperity to come, and so approach the celebration of New Year not with regret or relief but with a sense that yes, things will be even better, such is their good fortune.

We who follow Jesus are invited to look beyond whether the past year has been good or bad, whether we anticipate a happy or a hard new year because our times are in God's hands – and the God whom we understand to be with us in the good times is the same God who walks with us



www.google.com
Bonfire night in north Devon

when life is hard too – because our times are indeed in God's hands.

I would suggest that the making of new year resolutions is part of the hope for a better year to come. We recognise the effects of over-consumption and so we resolve to detoxify, and take more exercise; we recognise that we have wasted too many idle hours in front of screens of one sort or another and decide to read more books, take more walks and spend more time

with family and friends. All good instincts, of course – and I plan on making those resolutions, too – it has become an annual tradition, if I am honest.

What about making resolutions for Advent? It is traditionally a season not just for

celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, and the birth of Jesus at Christmas, but also for preparing to meet the returning Christ, who promises to come in glory to judge the world. Advent is a purple season like Lent, a time of penitence, of reflection and of examination. Perhaps the decision to turn from the self-indulgence, idleness and overconsumption of the past year might begin in Advent rather than waiting until after Christmas; maybe it might be more about spiritual detoxification, discipline and self-denial. That is the kind of new year resolution that could transform us: and it could change how we approach Christmas, too; and it might even last into January and beyond.

Jenny Welsh

Once upon a time, in David's City...

How does one teach the great doctrines of the Christian faith to little children? I am sure our own Sunday School teachers know how best to do it, but this was a problem facing Fanny Humphreys, a Sunday School teacher in Strabane, Northern Ireland, in the 19th Century. With her poetic gifts and an ability to express Christian teaching in a simple but imaginative way, her solution was to write hymns: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (on the Creation), *Once in Royal David's City* (on the Incarnation) and *There is a Green Hill Far Away* (on the Atonement). In 1848 she published a volume of *Hymns for Little Children*, which was a great success, although having later married a clergyman she has become better known under her married name of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander.

In *Once in Royal David's City* the writer sets out to tell a story, in a way that appeals equally to children and adults, the language being straightforward and child-like without being childish or condescending.

The first two verses set the scene and as we sing it we hardly notice the sound theology that forms the basis of the hymn:

*He came down to earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all.*

In verses 3 and 4 the story turns to Jesus' early years. This fills a gap in our knowledge, because there is no detail in the Gospels of this period in his life. The one story that we do

have, Jesus' escapade in the Temple when aged twelve, is included more to highlight the start of his adult life, I think, than to describe his childhood. Of course it is all speculative, but the writer paints an imaginative picture:

He was little, weak and helpless,

*Tears and smiles like us he
knew.*

Yet the Jesus of the Gospels
shines through:

*And he feeleth for our sadness
And he shareth in our gladness.*

Verse 3 highlights the Victorian period when the hymn was written, when many stories for children would contain moral imperatives that

would be quite unacceptable nowadays:

*Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.*

The last two verses move on to sharing the glory of Jesus in Heaven, and again this is a feature of hymns written in Victorian times (and later), but which seems to have become lost in some modern hymns. Verse 5 links the child in the manger with *our Lord in heaven above*, while verse 6 contrasts the glory of Heaven with the *poor lowly stable*. Right at the end Mrs Alexander's imagination falls short, in my opinion: 'waiting around dressed in white' doesn't sound a very exciting prospect for a child in any period!

Should we be more aware of the words when we sing hymns like this? I find there is a lot to be gained by reading a hymn through, perhaps at a time other than a church service. However, when I am taking part in a Carol Service, I find this opening carol soon transports me to a place beyond itself,



Giovanni Romanelli (1610-1662), The return from the flight to Egypt, www.google.com/search.

becoming a gateway to a joyful celebration that is much more than just the sum of its constituent parts.

Philip Bedford Smith

With acknowledgements to Frank Colquhoun's *Hymns that Live*



Special Services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

Sunday 9 December 10.30: The Nativity Play

Our Nativity Play will once again be performed by our children as part of the All Age Eucharist on this Second Sunday of Advent. Do plan to come along for this newly re-written production featuring younger children as actors, and older children as readers.

Sunday 16 December 7pm: Nine Lessons and Carols

This is one of the most popular services of the year, with wonderful music from the professional Choir, led by John Ward, our Director of Music, and exuberant singing from the congregation. If you can help with welcoming the many visitors who will come or serving refreshments afterwards, please speak with Margarete Geier. The collection taken will be for our Charitable Pot.

Monday 24 December, Christmas Eve, 4pm: Family Crib Service.

All families are welcome. Help us to fill the Christmas Crib, and prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child. The collection is for the Charitable Pot.

11.30pm: Midnight Mass: The first Eucharist of Christmas

Tuesday 25 December, Christmas Day
8.00am: Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am: Sung Holy Eucharist

Sunday 5 January Epiphany Sunday

10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist with the procession of the Magi. All children are welcome to help with this service.

Sunday 12 January The Baptism of Christ
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist with renewal of baptism promises. We invite those who were baptised in 2019 to return with their families as we recall Jesus' baptism and renew our own baptism promises.



Advent 2019 Study Group Creation and the Christian Hope

Mondays in December 10 – 11am in Church

This year's Advent course will take place on Monday mornings in December, 10 – 11am in church. Using material from Operation Noah* we will look at four themes to do with a proper Christian response to the climate emergency that the world is facing now.

If you would like to join that group, please let the Vicar know, or better yet, fill in one of the flyers and hand it in to her or the Office. Everyone is welcome to join.

*Operation Noah was set up in 2004 to provide a Christian response to the climate crisis. We work with all Christian denominations and support interfaith work on climate change. Our work is informed by the latest science on climate change, its causes, impacts and solutions. The sense of urgency we feel because of the science is balanced by

our faith in God and our hope in his future for our world. We are faith-motivated, science-informed and hope-inspired.



<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/the-university-of-manchester-joins-global-media-initiative-to-combat-climate-crisis/>



December and January Services, Events and Readings

Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist with Come and Sing Choir and Parish lunch. Charity Raffle drawn.
Readings: Isaiah 2.1-5
Romans 13.11-end
Matthew 24.36-44

Tuesday 3 December

1pm Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing

Thursday 5 December

6.30pm Charity Carol Concert for Glassdoor, Sponsored by Susan Metcalfe Residential

Friday 6 December

10am – 2pm Second Half Club
10am Digital Eagles

11am Pilates (£1, bring your own mat)

12noon Chair based exercise (£1)

NB No lunch today.

12noon Interment of Ashes Richard Waterbury

Sunday 8 December Advent 2

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am All Age Eucharist and Nativity Play

Monday 9 December

2pm Funeral of Margaret MacNair

Tuesday 10 December

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 11 December

11am Silent Prayer

Saturday 14 December

2pm Wedding of Bella Hussey and James Lauder

Friday 13 December

10am – 2pm Second Half Club
10am Digital Eagles
11am Pilates (£1, bring your own mat)
12noon Chair based exercise (£1)
1pm Lunch

Sunday 15 December Advent 3

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist
Readings: Isaiah 35.1-10
James 5.7-10
Mathew 11.2-11
7pm Festal of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Tuesday 17 December

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 18 December

11.15am Christmas Service at St Teresa's Nursing Home, Roland Gardens

Saturday 21 December

1.30pm Wedding Laura Lumley and Jack Colson

Sunday 22 December Advent 4

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist, Preacher The Reverend Lesley Perry
 Readings: Isaiah 7.10-16
 Romans 1.1-7
 Matthew 1.18-end

Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

Note – no midday Eucharist today
 4pm Crib service
 11.30 Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist

Thursday 26 December – Saturday 28 December Church closed**Sunday 29 December**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist
 The Reverend Philip Welsh presiding and preaching
 Readings: Isaiah 63.7-9
 Hebrews 2.10-end
 Matthew 2.13 - end

Monday 30 December – Wednesday 1 January Church closed**Sunday 5 January Epiphany Sunday**

8am Holy Eucharist
 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist and procession of the Magi
 Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6
 Ephesians 3.1-12
 Matthew 2.1-12

Monday 6 – Wednesday 8 January

9-10.30am Morning coffee session for school parents

Tuesday 7 January

1pm Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing

Wednesday 8 January

11am Silent Prayer
 12.30 – 2.30 Sing to Live, Live to Sing (Spring term)

Friday 10 January

10am – 2pm Second Half Club
 See details above

Sunday 12 January Baptism of Christ

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist with renewal of baptism promises
 Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9
 Acts 10.24-43
 Matthew 3.13-end

Tuesday 13 January

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 15 January

12.30pm – 2.30pm Sing to Live, Live to Sing

Friday 17 January

10am – 2pm Second Half Club
 See details above

Sunday 19 January Epiphany 2

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist
 Readings: Isaiah 49.1-7
 1 Corinthians 1.1-9
 John 1.29-42

Tuesday 21 January

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 22 January

12.30pm – 2.30pm Sing to Live, Live to Sing

Friday 24 January

10am – 2pm Second Half Club
See details above

Saturday 25 January

11am Memorial Charles Foster Taylor

Sunday 26 January Epiphany 3

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist
Readings: Isaiah 9.1-4
1 Corinthians 1.10-18
Matthew 4.12-23

Tuesday 28 January

1pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 29 January

12.30 – 2pm Sing to Live, Live to Sing

Friday 31 January

10am – 2pm Second Half Club



PCC Report

Thirteen members of the PCC met in church on a chilly November evening.

All those who had attended the All Souls Evensong commented on what a lovely service it had been and how, through Jenny's inspiration and John Ward's wonders on music, our one-off services are real highlights during the year.

Carolyn Stubbs had put a lot of work into producing a working Budget for 2020 and her figures were discussed and agreed to by the PCC. The more 'scary' costs expected for the coming year include the projected costs of replacing our two church boilers and the higher costs associated with our yet to be

appointed 'Parish Manager' (a replacement for our Administrator Max Noak who leaves at the end of this year) and who is expected to be a full time member of staff.

The Charities Committee thanked all those members of the congregation who put forward suggestions for 2020 charities. The chosen four are confirmed as USPG; Outside Chance; Housing Justice and The GoGo Trust and more information on these will be forthcoming shortly.

An Advent Group will be running in church on Monday mornings during December and everyone is encouraged to attend, and see elsewhere in the *Clarion* for details of Christmas services at St Mary's.

A 'mini' stewardship campaign will run during the first quarter of 2020, mainly to encourage new members of our congregation to pledge their church donations. This makes the church's income more tax efficient and easier to budget.

The Summer Fair is confirmed for Saturday 20 June and a co-ordinator is sought to organize this important event in the church's year.

Could this be you???

Joanna Hackett





Hire the Hall

St Mary's has a lovely hall and kitchen which can be hired for meetings, children's parties, or other small events. For information about booking, availability and fees, contact the Administrator at office@stmarytheboltons.org.uk



Regular Giving Envelopes are now available

The sets of green weekly Giving Envelopes for 2020 have now been received. I intend to bring them into St Mary's on Sunday 29 December and on the successive Sundays in early January. Please let me know if you would like yours before then.

If you are not one of the people who currently give by this method and would like to give it a try, please let me know and I will be happy to let you have one of the spare sets of envelopes.

Philip Bedford Smith
Gift Aid Secretary

How to Vote

Here are three things about how to vote as a Christian, in each case because of the kind of God we believe in.

First, Christians should vote compulsively. Not just as a civic duty, but because we believe in a God who is committed to the world. The Christian God is not an apathetic deity who floats serenely above the world and its needs, but a God who in Jesus Christ got involved in the world and all its mess. At a time when many people are tempted to lose faith in politics, we need to remember that there is nothing Christian about being disengaged and calling it spiritual.

Secondly, Christians should vote as displaced persons. We are citizens of the United Kingdom, but we are also, through our baptism, citizens of the Kingdom of God - the world as God calls it to be, which he has shown us in Jesus Christ - and we need to keep one foot firmly in each realm. Election campaigns tend to focus on domestic issues and economic self-interest. Christians should insist on a bigger picture, of what makes for the common good, for a just distribution of the world's resources, and for a sustainable future.

Thirdly, Christians should vote with bias, because God is biased. The Bible does not show us an even-handed God, but a God and a Saviour with a particular care for people who are poor, powerless, excluded and victims of injustice. As Christians we cast our vote on their behalf.

Keep this in mind, and that trudge to the polling station on 12 December might also be something of a spiritual exercise.

Philip Welsh



The House in Little Chelsea by Clare Hastings

Pimpernel Press Ltd. 2018, £12.99

Clare Hastings lives locally at 53 Finborough Road, and under the floorboards of her house she found a flyer for a 1920s theatrical agency run by former residents. This set her off investigating the various occupants of the house since its construction in 1873. Then it was a very respectable family address, built by the same firm as The Boltons and Tregunter Road. Before long it went into years of multiple occupation, until the comparatively recent gentrification of the area.

With the help of Census records Hastings has identified the successive owners and lodgers and their various occupations, and on this basis has invented fictional characters and lives for them, conveyed in short monologues. It is an ingenious idea that works well, and gives a shrewdly-observed and amusing sense of the changing character of life in this area over the years.

The House in Little Chelsea is an enjoyable light read with distinct local interest, and into the bargain is a beautifully-produced hardback volume at a reasonable price.

Philip Welsh



Stamps

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

Fiona Parsons



Bishop's Teaching Evenings

The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin

All are welcome from churches across the Kensington Area.

Beyond the Brexit Debate

The debate over Brexit has divided our nation more than any other in recent times. In these evening sessions, Bishop Graham will explore what a Christian approach to the Brexit debate might be and how the church might play a part in bringing reconciliation after such a polarised period in our nation's life.

3 December/St Mary's Sunbury/7.30pm

3 February 2020/St Leonard's Heston/7.30pm



Second Half Club

Winter Term 2020:

Fridays from 10 January

10:00-11:00am Digital Clinic

One on one advice for all levels

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



11:00-12:00pm Pilates (£1)

Delivered by Open Age *

12:00-1:00pm Chair Exercise Class (£1)

Delivered by Open Age*

Build flexibility, balance and strength

1 – 2pm Lunch

Generously provided by Pret a Manger

Refreshments offered throughout the day.

Contact: vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

020 7835 1440

*Free membership to Open Age required

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:

11 December

8 January

12 February

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.

If the only prayer you say in your entire life is 'Thank you', that would suffice.

Meister Eckhart



Contactless donations at St Mary's

The facility to make Contactless Donations will be introduced at St Mary's in the coming weeks. Since the first systems for contactless giving were introduced a few years ago the technology and equipment has improved rapidly and become more straightforward to use. After careful consideration of alternatives the PCC has selected the Tap to Give products offered by Goodbox. We will not have the tall, freestanding units that are appearing in cathedrals and other larger charitable institutions. We will have one countertop device that can be placed at the back of church, a GBx Core, and two brass GoodPlates. The GoodPlates are custom built

for churches and are already used in many cathedrals and some larger parish churches. They have a built in, but removable contactless terminal at the centre and space also for cash donations. Demand for the brass GoodPlates has outstripped supply but we hope to take delivery of the rest of the equipment soon. Training and demonstrations will be given so you will have the opportunity to become familiar with the new GoodPlate, but using it will be optional and we will continue to be very grateful for donations in the form of notes and coins, and even cheques.



Year's Mind December/January

Randoll Coate
 Stephen Long
 Ethel Doris
 Angela Raynor
 Sybil Sassoon
 Georgia Pemberton
 Margaret Payne
 Alexandra English
 Antony Gowan
 Patricia Coghill
 Charles Dwight
 Joyce Mundy
 David Lidderdale
 Victoire Ridsdale
 Gerda Turner
 James McGowan
 George Bosworth
 Jaqueline Lewis
 Edward Sloane
 Doris Stone
 Charles Foster-Taylor
 Georgina Davson
 May Irvine
 Ethel Sutcliffe

Beatrice Spicer
 Basil Robinson
 Albert Beauchamp
 Alice Wood
 Keith Kerry
 Timothy Pringle
 Elizabeth Graham
 David Tann
 Anstice Goodman
 Bill Kirkpatrick
 Tilly Halliwell
 Mary Millbourn
 Dorian Chinner
 Anthony Sheil
 Clarissa Morse
 Frances Perry
 Noel Patrick
 Leonard Waight
 Emily Greenland
 Francis Mundy
 Margot Macpherson
 Francis Spicer
 Anthony Glyn
 Alexander Fleming
 Anthea Smith
 Harry Dwight
 Ffreebairn Simpson
 Robert Collins
 Violet Berry
 Joan Ommanney



Vicar

Reverend Jenny Welsh
vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
020 7835 1440 and 07864 807959
(Day Off Thursday)

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

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

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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.

St Mary's Christmas Cards 2019 are on sale

We are blessed by a good number of talented artists in our congregation. This year, James Parfitt has offered a new painting to be used for a Christmas card for St Mary's to sell to raise funds for our continuing work and ministry. The cards are available now in church. 5 cards for only £3. We also have cards by Ken Howard RA, only £2.50 for 4 cards. Please remember to buy your cards here!



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

**Contributions for the February Clarion
should be sent to the Parish Office by 27
January 2020.**

The theme will be: 'Confirmation'

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



Carol Service Sunday 15 December 7pm

**candle-lit
professional choir
sing-along carols**

*Spend some time in stillness in
our beautiful candlelit church.*

*Hear the story of Christmas
unfold in the familiar nine
lessons.*

*Listen to moving choral music
from our professional octet of
singers.*

*Join in heartily with all the
traditional carols.*

*Enjoy the cheerful festive
organ music before and after
the service.*

*Share the Christmas cheer
and stay for a glass of mulled
wine and mince pies.*