

# The Grapevine

Issue 4: October 2021



St Mary and  
St John the Divine

BALHAM

## Young Voices

Newsletter from St Mary and St John the Divine  
Balham High Road, London, SW12 9BS  
T. 020 8673 1188 [stmarybalham.org.uk](http://stmarybalham.org.uk)

### Welcome to the latest issue of The Grapevine

Welcome to the Autumnal version of The Grapevine. We apologise for the extended summer holiday but please bear with us as there have been quite a few things going on!

In July, we said a heartfelt Goodbye to **Father Robert, Olivia and Romily**. Our Church Community did a wonderful job of extending thanks to Father Robert for his time spent with us over the last few years. We know that Father Robert and his family were touched by the generosity of the Church family. We also say thank you to everyone to conveyed their gratitude in some way.

After a successful final term – suddenly school was out and it was straight into the summer holidays. Many of us avoided international travel due to the restrictions put in place to control the pandemic but there was an opportunity to take time out and appreciate some of the beauty spots nearer to home. Places such as Devon, Cornwall and Wales were the holiday destinations of choice and there was an opportunity to see and experience nature without the hassle of travelling.



And for those of us that didn't travel, St Mary's remained a place where we could come together. As restrictions eased, we were elated to have the chance to sing, celebrate and worship together.

The weather was kind enough to let us hold a successful Garden Party on Saturday September 4, 2021. We extend our thanks to the organisers and the supporters!

And just like that, summer has said goodbye and the nights are drawing in. As we enter into a phase of Interregnum while we think about what is next for St Mary's, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to make the right choices.

We look forward to spending more time with each other over the next few months. Please spread the good word and let everyone know we welcome everyone at St Mary's!

**Supper and Auction of Promises – 30th October- (6.00pm Drinks and viewing of the promises. 7.30pm Supper)** - We now have a wide array of enticing promises on offer from cakes, crocheting and canal trips to art exhibitions, guided walks and upholstery. Tickets are now on sale at £10 each for drinks, a delicious dinner and the chance to bid and raise funds for the church.

Please roll up and buy your tickets from Sarah McD (07840 536 952 [sarah.mcdermott@virgin.net](mailto:sarah.mcdermott@virgin.net)) or Karen G (07958 372 787 [karenggray@redten.net](mailto:karenggray@redten.net)) The more the merrier!



Please take some time to read some of the work from the young people who visit our Church Group on Saturday afternoons.

### Saturday evenings

We learn together  
We grow together

Socialising is key to when you join the dream team  
We talk about multiple topics  
We love to plan new things

Care, joy, comfort  
You feel it when you enter  
We discuss positive ideas  
Which could change the world forever

We experience fun things  
Why don't you join too  
If they had space for me  
They will have space for you!

\*\*\*\*\*

I enjoy spending Saturday's at Church  
We do lots of things  
from playing games with each other  
to group discussions  
- even colouring and drawing.

It's nice spending time with friends  
and it's a great time to chill out and relax.  
We are very open to having new people  
join and have a fun experience with us..

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## Pen Portrait

**Colin Snadden: PCC Treasurer**



I started coming to St Mary's a few years ago and initially got involved in serving with the Sacristan Team. My working life has mainly been in finance and so when the role of Treasurer became vacant, I decided to put my experience to use. Prior to becoming an accountant, I worked as an orchestral percussionist and still enjoy listening to music. Other interests include walking.

Having witnessed the miracle of love, reconciliation and forgiveness in post-apartheid South Africa, I am ever hopeful for a world with peace and equality for all.

### The Grapevine Editorial team

*Sarah McDermott  
Marian Shaw  
Wendy Newall  
Lillian Mathieson  
Brenda Turner*

If you have any contributions for us at The Grapevine, please email them to **Dawn Dukat at [Dawn.Dukat@gmail.com](mailto:Dawn.Dukat@gmail.com)**

We look forward to hearing from you soon!  
Please note that issues of 'The Grapevine' are now available on the church website. These can be found [here](#).

## THE TARMAC STORY

No more trips, falls or stones in the shoes. The forecourt tarmac is complete: A relief after years of complaints and plans for repair. But why was this done when just 18 months ago we were planning to completely reorder the front of the church including creating new entrances, parking and sitting areas and landscape planting.

Unfortunately, those plans had to be put on hold given what happened in March 2020. We were at the point of seeking permissions from the Diocese, Wandsworth Planning and other stakeholders when Covid struck. Not only did this make the project difficult to manage but our financial position went into decline making an already difficult funding effort seem impossible, at least in the near future. So, the question was left, what do we do with the unsafe forecourt surface given that use of the church would soon be in full swing again?

At this point the PCC decided to proceed with an interim plan to repair and refinish the existing tarmac surface. Contractors were invited to tender for the work and this was completed in two days in July by the chosen firm. Tarmac may not be the most attractive material for our forecourt but it was a practical solution that was affordable and will see us through until we can reinstate the more ambitious plan to make the church more open and welcoming. No trips, no falls.



### Online Donations

If you would like to make a donation to St Mary and St John the Divine Church online, please do so by visiting the link: <https://tinyurl.com/StMaryGive>  
We appreciate your generosity in these times.

**Thank you!**

## From the Kitchen at St Mary's..... Quick Fish Pie!



### Ingredients

500 grams fish pie mix  
20 g flour  
20 g butter  
250 ml milk  
Mashed potato  
A few peas

### Method

1. Melt butter with flour in pan. Whisk in milk until smooth.
2. Pour over fish mixture.
3. Add peas or sweetcorn.
4. Top with mashed potato and grated cheese.
5. Cook for 45 minutes in hot oven.
6. Serve with green veggies and enjoy!

### Where is this?

When you are next in Church, have a look for this beautiful stained glass window depicting Jesus talking to the Children. Where is it in the Church?

