

THE GRAPEVINE

The Newsletter of St. Mary and St. John the Divine, Balham

A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER BERNI...

The word 'Lent' comes from the Old English word for 'Spring', and as I write this, Spring truly is the season breaking all around us. How amazing do the Oasis Garden and newly planted beds at the front of church look, along with the wonderful local commons. How bursting with life and invitation to dwell and enjoy! I wonder how and where you have found space to rest, reflect and notice the signs of Spring emerging. Have your Lenten practices helped you notice anything new emerging in your heart, your soul, your mind and in the world all around?

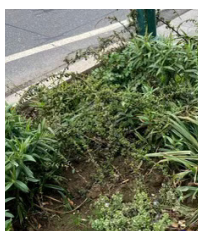
As we turn quickly now towards Holy Week and the start of the Easter season, I hope we can find ways to continue our journeying together that allows space for story-telling. How about finding someone new to share your hopes for Easter with, and together venturing onwards into the resurrected life.

YOUNG PEOPLE!

It was lovely to be part of the Thursday 30-minute TSM out of school sunny gathering in the garden. Some of the girls picked daisies to decorate their hair. Their teacher read the story of Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. The whole school later attended the communion service, as acolytes, doing the readings, and offering their prayers. The final preparation for Confirmation candidates was on the 19th March, a thoughtful discussion with question and answer session and then the Confirmation Service was on the 27th at the Ascension Church. David, Tiffany, Margaret and Jack joined other candidates, supported by their families, friends and a full pew from St Mary's.

—Lillian Mathieson.

GREENING BALHAM

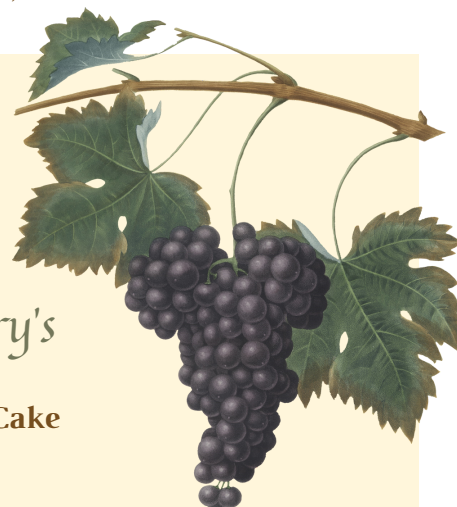


"Balham in Bloom", organized by Beautify Balham, is set again for **Saturday, 25 June**. Perk up your front gardens, pots and hanging baskets. Also, Living Pillars are coming to lamp posts near the Bedford pub and the planting on Bedford Hill is burgeoning.

PARISH BOUNDARY CHALLENGE

Put **Saturday, 18 June** in your diaries for a chance to walk the boundary of St Mary's parish, learn about local Balham history and raise funds for the church and our TSM school.

From the Kitchen of St. Mary's



Easter Simnel Cake

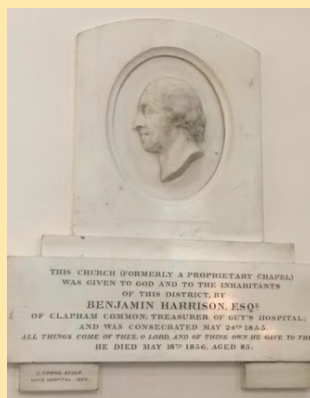
175g butter
175g soft brown sugar
3 eggs
175g plain flour
3 x 5ml spoons mixed spice
1 x 5ml spoons baking powder
2 x 15ml spoons milk
275g mixed dried fruit
50g glacé cherries
25g chopped peel
Grated rind of lemon
50g ground almonds
Pack of Marzipan



Grease a round 18cm cake tin and line with baking paper. Put all the cake ingredients into a bowl and beat together. Place half the mixture in the tin and smooth the top. Roll out one third of the marzipan to fit the tin and place it on top of the cake mixture then put the remaining cake mixture on top.

Bake in a cool oven for approx 2 and a half hours. When cool, brush the top of the cake with apricot jam. Roll out a circle of marzipan and place on top of the cake. Shape the remaining marzipan into 11 balls (these signify the 11 disciples without mentioning the 12th) If liked, brush the balls with a little beaten egg white and bake the cake on a high oven for 2-3 minutes to lightly brown the almond paste. Decorate with foil mini eggs.

WHERE IS THIS?



This plaque commemorates Benjamin Harrison, Esq.
Do you know where this is in the church and who he is?

BOOK REVIEW: THE FORTNIGHT IN SEPTEMBER

Wendy Newall

“One day, an idea for a novel came out of the blue. It happened on a seaside holiday at Bognor, when we used to go down and watch the crowds go by.”

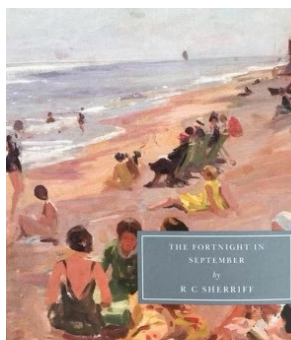
—R.C. Sherriff, a veteran of the First World War and playwright of the famous play ‘Journey’s End’ speaking about his inspiration for *The Fortnight in September*.

Bognor, a Londoner’s daytrip destination. I wondered what Mr Sherriff might find to write about.

I was not disappointed. The Stevens family take a fortnight’s holiday at the same time every year and stay at the same boarding house and enjoy all the usual activities of an English holiday. The cricket on the sands, Mr Stevens’s leisurely walks over the Downs, the concert at the Bandstand and the hiring of a superior beach hut ‘The Cuddy’ are all described in acute detail. There are some intriguing references to the period, for instance, the boarding house, ‘Sea View’ which costs £3.10 shillings a week with an extra shilling for ‘cruet’. Not without humour, I enjoyed the image of the stuffed babel in the hallway they named Mr Richards because it looked like their milkman back home in Dulwich.

The simplicity of his writing and the honest portrayal of a typical family in the 1930’s makes for very sweet reading.

Published by Persephone Books.



PEN PORTRAIT: MISS LYNN ANDERSON

Lynn was born in the Wirral, where she and her mother lived with her aunt and cousins throughout her childhood. Her family is still based in Cheshire, with younger members spread around the world. With her energy, stamina and sense of fun, together with awareness of all her responsibilities, Lynn Anderson is the Head Teacher of our very successful primary school, Trinity St. Mary’s. Such success does not happen without a great deal of hard work on the part of Lynn and all her staff. She herself leads in Art and Design/ Technology. Her passion for her job is evident.

As a bossy infant, Lynn was advised by her family to become a teacher. Contrarily, she chose nursing as a career but her experience on a “psycho-geriatric” ward as part of her training made her think again! She became a nanny with families in North London at the age of 18, alongside many famous households. Another turning point about ten years later, when she broke her ankle, led to the decision to become a teacher. At Roehampton University, Lynn studied English Literature and primary teaching.

Lynn loves everything Italian: art, culture, food, wine and Venice. We can see her own artistic talent in the colourful murals painted in the corridor between St. Mary’s music room and the Oasis Garden. By all accounts, she has a lovely garden in Surrey, and her favourite pastime on a sunny, summer’s evening is to sit in the garden with a good book and a glass of wine.



Answers to the picture quiz in our March issue...

1. Atticus Finch
2. Scarlet O’Hara
3. Sherlock Holmes
4. Tintin
5. Rebecca
6. Robinson Crusoe
7. Tristram Shandy
8. Hercule Poirot
9. Don Quixote
10. Tiny Tim
11. Emma Bovary



Our resident robin in the Oasis Garden!



St Mary and
St John the Divine

BALHAM

St. Mary and St. John the Divine
Balham High Road, SW12 9BS

Telephone: 020 8673 1188
stmarybalham.org.uk

THE GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL TEAM

Sarah McDermott, Marian Shaw, Wendy Newall, Lillian Mathieson, Hannah Sommers,
and Brenda Turner

If you have any contributions for us at The Grapevine, please email them to
Sarah McDermott at sarah.mcdermott@virgin.net

Please note that issues of “The Grapevine” are now available on the church website:
<https://tinyurl.com/StMaryGrapevine>