

# T H E B U L L E T I N .

The Annunciation Marble Arch

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EDITORIAL BY FR GERALD BEAUCHAMP

It's a salutary experience to open a newspaper and see the death notice of a contemporary. It happened to me again recently. The Revd Roly Bain has died aged 62. I reprint an appreciation of his life by Alex Williams overleaf.

I didn't know Roly well but he was one of the great characters in the Diocese of Southwark when I was ordained in 1980. Besides being a well-respected priest he was also a clown – for real!

In 1990 Roly moved on from his parish to develop his clown ministry showing up at all manner of events to act as a sort of court jester. He embodied the late Cardinal Hume's mantra that we should take God seriously, take other people seriously but never take ourselves seriously. Or as I was told from time to time when I lived in a monastery: "It's not all about you!"

Around the year 2000 I invited Roly to come to St Mary The Boltons where I was vicar to help celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the parish. Roly 'preached' at a parish mass by erecting an unstable tightrope and doing his routine 'the slack rope of faith'. The following day he did something similar for a local school.

To see Roly do the impossible – balancing, spinning hoops and preaching at the same time – was an inspiration. I've never known anyone with such joy and abandon. He helped me to see life differently. The church easily lapses into being a dusty old institution, but to behold Roly in action was like staring at the coals in a fire. The energy of his faith was palpable.

St Paul says that we are to be 'fools for Christ'. As we get going again after the summer holidays let's capture something of the reckless verve that makes life exciting and the gospel a challenge. Thanks, Roly (and St Paul) for reminding us of that.

Yours in Christ

Fr Gerald

# CHURCH URGED NOT TO FORGET PIE-THROWING PRIEST CLOWN

Sun 14 Aug 2016  
By Alex Williams

The legacy of a Anglican priest who made a reputation for himself as a custard pie-through clown who targeted bishops must not be forgotten, one of his former-colleagues has told Premier.

Associate vicar Roly Bain, who won accolades including two Clown International awards, reportedly died following a one-year battle with cancer.

Fellow Anglican priest Patrick Forbes, who co-founded the Holy Fools network of Christian entertainers with Roly told Premier Christian Radio: "There was a time when the idea of a lowly priest hurling a custard pie at a bishop in the Anglican Church would have been impossible to imagine.

"It's possible for senior people to take themselves far too solemnly. Roly went to work on that with great success and the bishops, bless their hearts, took it in very good [humour]."

Ordained in 1978, Mr Bain choose to spend a year at the Circomedia circus school in Bristol in the early 1990s before, more recently, serving as an associate vicar at St Mary the Virgin Church in Olveston.

Tributes paid on the social media website Twitter to Mr Bain included a "man of so many gifts", "irreplaceable" and "a great blessing to the Church".

Patrick Forbes added: "It very much matters that the Church doesn't forget Roly and that it has the courage to build on what it may learned [from him], that there are ways of sharing the Gospel which are not necessarily solemn and Bible-thumping and there may be a gentler, quieter and sometimes outrageously funny ways of sharing the good news of Jesus with other people."

(Reprinted from the Premier Radio website [www.premier.org.uk](http://www.premier.org.uk))



## THE MARYLEBONE HEALING & COUNSELLING CENTRE

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*For many years the crypt of Marylebone Parish Church has been concerned with the living and not the dead. It houses a GP practice and provides rooms for a variety of other disciplines dedicated to the healing arts. In July Suzanne Hyde was appointed as the Clinical Director. She writes:*

I am delighted to have been appointed Clinical Director for St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre.

I have known of St Marylebone and the Centre for many years. In my late twenties–mid-thirties, I worked for The Industrial Society, a campaigning charity, based just down the road in Bryanston Square, and attended yoga classes at the Centre. After ten years of working for The Industrial Society, in a series of roles: press officer, editor, managing editor, and finally, as Head of Communications, I left to bring up my three children.

My interest in the psychotherapy world arose initially from my first job, post-degree, working as a secretary for the Westminster Pastoral Foundation (WPF). Also, inspired by my degree in Theology [from the then London Bible College], I had long nurtured a desire to train as a counsellor, which I was then able to pursue at an affiliate of WPF in St Albans, whilst juggling motherhood and freelance journalism.

This training re-ignited a deep passion that had been dormant in me. In my early twenties I had been given the Scripture from Isaiah ... *'He has anointed you to bring good news to the afflicted ..bind up the brokenhearted...proclaim liberty to the captives...and freedom to the prisoners... and comfort to those who mourn.'* [paraphrase of Isaiah 61, v1,2]. For a long time I couldn't see how these words applied to my life or work in industry. However, over the 16 years since I moved into the psychotherapy field, I have had the privilege to be alongside many psychologically wounded and distressed people and have witnessed the power of the psyche to heal and regenerate, albeit with much hard work and commitment from both sides.

In order to deepen my capacity to work alongside people with profound and complex personal needs, I went on to train as a Jungian Analyst at the Society of Analytical Psychology [SAP], near Swiss Cottage, where I am now a training analyst and an active member. Alongside my private practice in Hertfordshire , I have also worked as a bereavement counsellor and supervisor at the Watford Peace Hospice, been an assessment counsellor and seminar leader at the Counselling Foundation in St Albans and also supervise and teach at the SAP. I also keep my 'editorial' finger in the pie by being the Book Editor for the *International Journal of Analytical Psychology*.

A month or two ago, I walked past St Marylebone and wondered how the Centre was doing, and thought how much I would like to work there. By a happy coincidence, a few days later, I saw the advert for this position. And the rest, as they say ....will be our history!

## SERVICES & EVENTS

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**11 SEP** Sunday 11 September, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 10.30am Parish Mass

**13,20,27 SEP** Tuesdays 13, 20 & 27 September, 3.45pm. Children's Choir Rehearsals in church

**20 SEP** Tuesday 20 September, 7.30pm. Parochial Church Council in Church

### St Cyprian's Clarence Gate Festival

**15 SEP** Thursday 15 September, St Cyprian's Day. 7.30pm High Mass. Preacher: Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London

**16 SEP** Friday 16 September, 6.30pm. Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* performed by the Francis Holland School. Tickets: £10 on the door

**17 SEP** Saturday 17 September, 7.00pm. Quiz Night. £10. If you are bringing a team of six or wish to join a team please contact Chris Self [chris\\_self@btinternet.com](mailto:chris_self@btinternet.com)

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### Local business

## Beauty Rose

**21 New Quebec Street, London W1H 7DE**

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**How would you describe your business?** *We are a hair and beauty salon.*

**How long have you been in the neighbourhood?** *Around eight years.*

**What is your clientele?** *A wide range; some local and others who see us as a destination.*

**Do you have an online presence? If so what is your website address?**

[www.beautyrose.co.uk](http://www.beautyrose.co.uk)

**What would you like people to know about your business?** *One of our clients summed it up best: 'Very professional, down to earth. Made me feel very relaxed. I would definitely choose to have more treatments'.*

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