

St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

The lock down looks set to continue for some time, and so we hope that this weekly newsletter will continue to help you feel connected to St Mary's even if by long distance. Some of us are discovering the telephone call again, some have found new skills with videochatting; your vicar has managed each week to talk to the local clergy via Zoom, in her Area Dean guise, and has even joined about 50 others for morning prayer with Bishop Graham a few times. We have been thrilled to include some of our members in the podcasts for worship each week, and hope others may be encouraged to offer theirs, as well.

This week's podcast can be heard [here](#) and the order of service, with words to the hymns and prayers can be downloaded [here](#), with a large print version, [here](#).

For information those members who aren't online are being sent a paper version of the order of service (including the words to hymns that we hope are familiar enough to sing, and a short reflection as well, so we hope no one is being forgotten. Our new parish

manager has been working hard to get things out on time, in hope that the post office will do the rest.

Coming in the next couple of weeks:

Sunday 3 May Easter 4, Good Shepherd Sunday – the podcast will be ‘all age’ with some of our children doing the readings and prayers. Special music, too.

Sunday 10 May Easter 5. The Bishop of London was to join us for our eucharist. We are particularly excited to have her giving her sermon as part of the podcast instead, and she will be rearranging her visit for later on.

In case you are looking for other opportunities to say your prayers in company, I say morning prayer each day at 8.30am using the Church of England’s daily prayer app <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> I am going to experiment with saying Morning Prayer via Zoom, and will be glad to be joined by anyone interested. Let me know and I’ll send you the secure link. I’ll begin on Monday.

May Clarion

We expect the Clarion to be available for download next Sunday. There will be paper copies in the church porch, which people can take away, so if you find yourself there on your daily exercise do take one for a neighbour or friend.

Finance and giving

We are grateful to all those who continue to support us financially while we are not able to meet. As with all of us, our church still needs to meet its costs, paying our Common Fund to the diocese and supporting our lay staff, while our regular income diminishes, not least because we have lost our usually substantial Sunday collections. Can I please encourage you, if you are one of those who puts your donation into the plate on Sundays, to consider giving by bank transfer, whether each week or by standing order? It is easy; we can still benefit from your GiftAid, and it will help us to continue our ministry with you and our neighbours.

PCC of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude

Account Number: 80692190

Sort code: 20-80-14

Food Banks Remember, when you manage to do your shopping, that lots of people are hungry at this time, particularly those whose children depend on free school meals, not to mention those who have lost jobs and income. Dad’s House continues to need our support for their food banks, including one at 22 Lillie Road in Fulham. They are open 7 days a week between 10am and 3pm, and would love to receive your donations.

Keeping in touch (while keeping our distance)

I am trying to phone members of the congregation whose phone numbers we have, but in

case I miss you, I'll be glad to hear from you! Please remember to let us at St Mary's know if you need any help or support, or if you would like us to pray for you or someone you know, or if you simply want to chat. We are all missing each other at this time. Remember too, that the Intercessions group is continuing to pray for all those on the prayer list, and we will be very glad to pray for new people, who are in need at this time.

Buddy system – caring for each other

We are all at home or somewhere safe from the possibility of infection, I hope. We know that some of our members are alone, and may be finding it difficult to access groceries, prescriptions, and other important supplies.

To support people in this situation at this time, we have set up a 'Buddy System' with several people having already offered to help with groceries, errands, chatting, etc. If you would value this help, or if you are willing to offer this help, please be in contact with the Parish Office, office@stmarytheboltons.org; 020 7835 1440 (Jane is working remotely holding it all together) and we will try to match you with someone local to you, and share your contact details with them. We then leave it to you to make further arrangements. Note that we will informally vet people offering assistance; please be in touch with us if any safeguarding concerns arise.

Should you find yourself walking past the church on your daily exercise, do come into the garden, which is looking lovely right now. The wisteria is shaping up very nicely. And take a look into the church through the glass doors – the Easter candle is being lit every day, so that people will know that while the building may be closed, the Risen Christ is with us.

Lent Appeal – filling the Charitable Pot, and supporting those in need

Thank you to all those who so quickly responded to the request for Lent Appeal Donations. The result has been staggering, raising more than £1,500 for the Charitable Pot. If you've not made your offering yet there is still time either to send a cheque marked Lent Appeal, on the back, to the church, where it will be banked as soon as possible or, better still, arrange a bank transfer, with the reference Lent Appeal.

Donations should be made to:

PCC of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude,

Account Number: 80692190

Sort code: 20-80-14

The Revd Jenny Welsh

Vicar

vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

020 7835 1440

07864 807 959