

St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

It's a strange Easter when we cannot come to church together to celebrate together. Normally our Easter services are enthusiastic and include a good number of visitors and neighbours for whom St Mary's is their Easter home. I am glad that so many people were able to listen to the podcasts during Holy Week and join in with our worship that way. Being at home, and apart from one another is a great sadness – certainly I am feeling our separation quite sharply. I long for the time when we can actually gather in church together, to sing, pray and share the bread and wine once again. Meanwhile meeting virtually will continue as long as is necessary – do share these podcasts with your friends or family who might not otherwise come to church with you.

Join us at 10.30am today to hear the podcast for today's service for Easter Day [here](#)

The order of service is [here](#), and a large print version is [here](#).

I am particularly grateful to John Ward who has put in huge amounts of time 'curating' the podcasts, and Jane Ellard who in her first two weeks of working at St Mary's has overseen the closing of the church building but the maintaining of the church's ministry of prayer and worship. And thanks also to those who have helped by taking part in the recordings. And particular thanks go to Philip Welsh who has guided us through Holy Week. Thank you all.

I hope that wherever you are, Easter Day will be something that you can celebrate, whether with the people you live with, or those you are speaking with by phone or video call. Please do keep safe on this Easter weekend.

We anticipate several more weeks of the lockdown and so are aware that some of us will be finding things difficult to manage. I know that many of you are in touch with each other already, but do let me know how you might be best supported during the coming weeks, particularly if you or someone in your household becomes ill, and you need extra help. I am trying to ring around the parish list, just to check in with people whose number we have. If you would like to chat, do be in touch, meanwhile.

Finally, please do not forget that our Lent Appeal has been continuing even during the lockdown. If you have been supporting the appeal, please will you make sure that we are able to receive your donation to the charity pot as soon as possible. Cheques should be made out to The PCC of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude, and **marked on the back 'Lent Appeal'**. Better still, you can donate by BACS, **with the reference Lent Appeal**. Our bank details are:

PCC of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude
Account Number: 80692190
Sort code: 20-80-14.

Philip and I wish you all a very happy Eastertide.

Jenny

The Revd Jenny Welsh

Vicar

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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.

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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 us 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.

The Clarion

It was a sad but proper decision to not publish an April/Easter edition of the Clarion while we were in the chaos of closing the church, and figuring out how to keep connected with our members. However, we will be publishing an edition in May, and hope that we will have some articles about the experience of being confined to home, but discovering how to live physically apart, but very much connected in new ways. Perhaps you have something to share about how you are living and working in this new situation. We would like to hear from you. Send articles, images, etc to Verena Tschudin our editor v.tschudin@btinternet.com by 25 April.

The Church Garden

It has been a joy to keep our church garden open during this time, as it is one of the few public green space in our area and people have been using it, and using it responsibly, we are happy to observe. If on your daily exercise you find yourselves walking past the church gates, do come in to see how lovely it is looking. The wisteria is going to be spectacular in about a month's time. Please do remember to observe the proper social distancing when you come!