

St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

I wonder how your Easter celebration was, where you are? For me, not being in church, not seeing members of the congregation, not celebrating the Eucharist together, not being with my whole family, it felt like the strangest Easter ever. So it was good to think that even if we were apart, the opportunity to pray and sing and celebrate Easter via our podcasts was being taken up by many members of the congregation who tuned in at 10.30 on Easter Day, and found imaginative ways to share a virtual cup of coffee afterwards. I hope that these recorded services will help us all to know that St Mary's is still a congregation, no matter how dispersed across London and beyond that we are, and to remind us to keep in touch.

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](#).

May Clarion

We are looking for articles for the May issue of the Clarion. Do you have any reflections about the Coronavirus situation, as you have experienced it? Would you like to share them with us? Please let Verena Tschudin v.tschudin@btinternet.com know by the end of next week, Friday 25 April. 500 words max

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

If you have been collecting for the St Mary's Lent Appeal, we will be glad to receive your Lent Offering as soon as possible, as the Lent Appeal is now over. As you'll be aware, the COVID pandemic has led to a huge loss of income to charities, including those we are supporting this year. If you would like to give to our Charitable Pot as part of your Lent offering, please would you either 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

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 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.

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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The Revd Jenny Welsh
Vicar

vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

020 7835 1440

07864 807 959