

## St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

This week's podcast is a bit of an 'all age' service: the voices you will hear reading and praying belong to three of our Sunday School children. It's good to be reminded that our whole church family is being affected by the lockdown: our children are at home, too, being home schooled, or learning on line, with the teachers who continue to work; or if they are very young, they are probably spending more time with their parents and less time with friends or playmates than ever before. And it could be that you are more aware of the children in your neighbourhoods than ever before too, with everyone at home. Please do remember to pray for the families around you, who perhaps are feeling overcrowded in small flats or frustrated by lack of opportunity to go outside to play, or who are finding it

hard to learn or find much entertainment.

**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](#).**

I hope that you'll listen on Sunday morning at 10.30am with us, and sing along with gusto in the hymns. Once again, we are grateful to John Ward who has been putting these together week by week. We are working on a way that we can meet for coffee by video link – a small group already does this, but it would be wonderful to expand it to include everyone.

### **Next Week:**

Sunday 10 May Easter 5. The Bishop of London was to join us for our Eucharist. Instead, she has kindly offered us a recording of her sermon to add to our podcast next Sunday.

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 would be thrilled if you want to join me by Zoom – let me know if you are interested, and I will send you the link. Three or four people have already begun to join in and you'd be very welcome too.

**May Clarion** is now available for download [here](#) and paper copies are in the church porch for people to take away and share with friends.

### **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 food donations. There are other options suggested in the Clarion.

**Help available for those who need it** Are you aware of someone in your neighbourhood who needs extra help with groceries, or could benefit from regular hot meals being delivered to them; or who needs help with getting prescriptions? A new local multi-church initiative called Love Your Neighbour (#LYN) has started a hub at Holy Trinity Brompton, which provides food parcels for anyone who needs them and also is able to deliver hot meals cooked at one of the local schools or other institutions on request. Please let me know if this would be useful to you or someone else, so that those who are in need can be helped.

### **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 as needed.

### **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](mailto: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.

**The Revd Jenny Welsh**

**Vicar**

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