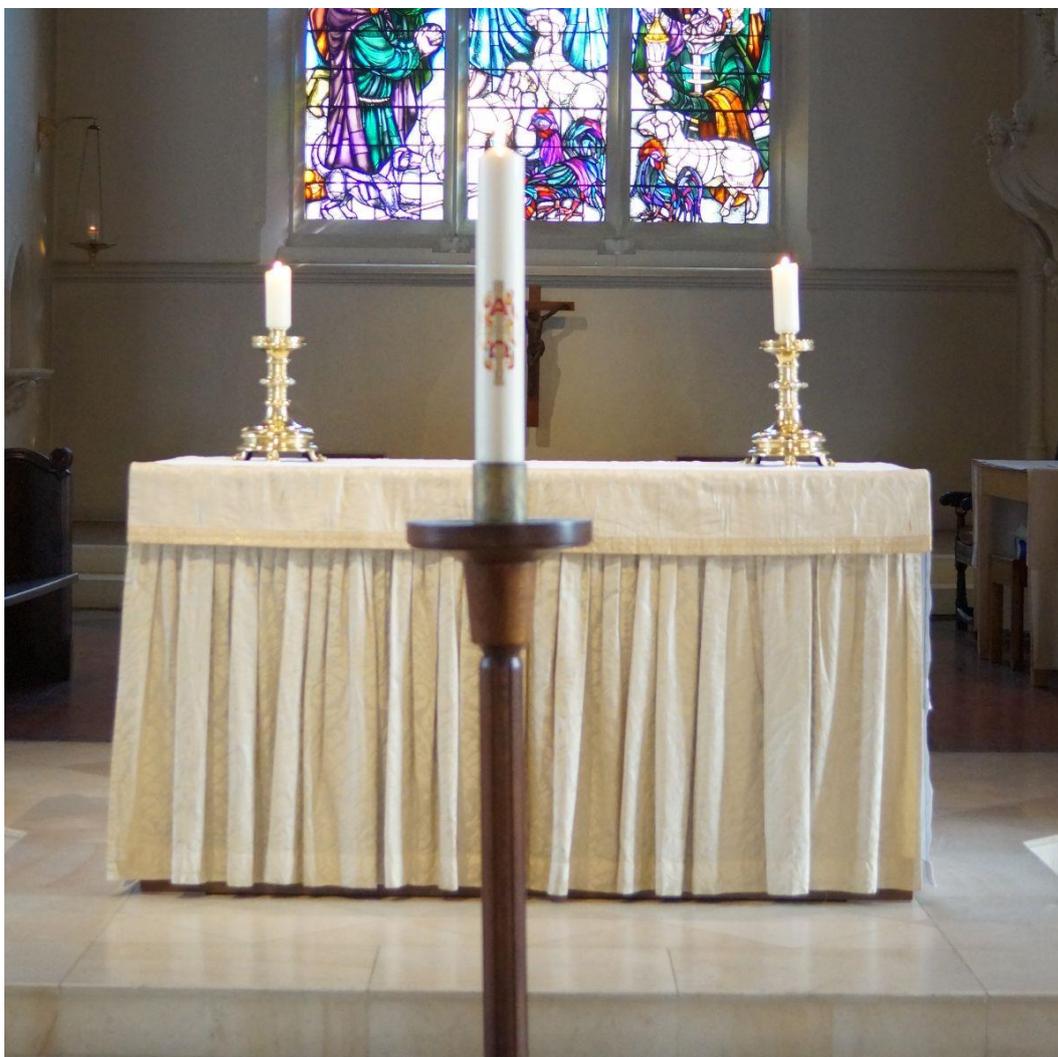


St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

This week we are waiting on tenterhooks to hear what changes the government will allow in our daily lives – may we go out more than once a day; may we go to work more freely; will there be provision made for the most vulnerable that won't feel like further constraint but rather a lightening of the burden of isolation; will my livelihood or business or savings be sufficient for the time being? We are living in strange times, on a new road without a map or much of a plan. I am thinking this week in particular about our Gospel reading, where we discover that Thomas once again gives voice to our worrying, as he says, 'Lord we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' We don't know the way we are going yet, either. Christ's promise that HE is the way and the truth and the life is what we have to cling to. This doesn't mean that the way will be easy of course - remember that the way for Jesus was towards the Cross - but that it will be travelled with

him, who has gone before us through the worst the world could throw at him into the life of resurrection.

This week we were to have been joined in church by the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally, who was to preach and preside at the Eucharist. We are hoping that she will join us when we are able to gather in church in due course, but meanwhile we are thrilled that she has prepared a sermon for the podcast instead.

Bishop Sarah became Bishop of London almost exactly two years ago and this would have been her first visit to us.

Having had a full career in nursing, culminating in becoming the Chief Nursing Officer in the NHS, she was ordained in Southwark in 2001, and was curate in Battersea, and then team rector in Sutton. After going to Salisbury Cathedral to be their Canon Treasurer, she was consecrated Bishop of Crediton in Exeter diocese, and then came to London to be our first woman bishop, serving also in the House of Lords and on the Privy Council. Her task of holding together this huge diocese with its variety of churches and its social, ethnic and political divisions is one which she has risen to. We look forward to the time when she can come to St Mary's in person. Meanwhile I hope her preaching will inspire and encourage us all.

This weekend the nation is observing the 75th anniversary of VE Day, and the beginning of the building of a lasting peace among our neighbours in Europe and beyond. We pray for our country and our leaders, and for a commitment to working for peace between nations, and within our own.

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.

Join us for coffee afterwards at our Zoom Coffee Hour – a chance to see familiar faces, and to chat in small groups for a while. Having mastered the technology we'll be glad to see as many of you as would like to come along. The link to the meeting is here:

Topic: Sunday Coffee Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83346676568?pwd=OWdLcE9MY3k0a3JCUzJVejc5TTBmUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 4667 6568

Password: 018594

If you've not used Zoom before, just click on the link, turn on your microphone and camera; and bring your own coffee.

If you are using a smartphone rather than a PC or laptop you will need to download the Zoom app.

Daily Prayer

A few people have been joining in a zoomed service of 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](#) If you would like to join us, use this Zoom link – again pasting it into your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83100984360?pwd=K21zZVA0YlBwYzJuWjlwT3RBWTITQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 0098 4360

Password: 001758

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.

The theme for the June Clarion is Ordination (and Vocation, more broadly). Perhaps you have something to contribute about that? We would love to have your thoughts about what vocation means for you. We are also looking for other shorter pieces about your lives in lockdown – how you are coping with work or study, with living alone or in close proximity with family; how you spend your days; and any reflections you might have about it all. Photographs or other images are welcome.

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: we have lost our usually substantial Sunday collections as well as income from letting the hall. 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.

Help available for those who need it Are you or someone in your neighbourhood needing 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. And the Buddy System has plenty of people who are ready to chat, run errands or generally support people in the parish. 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.



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