
St Mary The Boltons

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

Friends,

This is the newsletter for the Sixth (and last) Sunday of Easter. It's also called, in the old calendar, Rogation Sunday, and we mark it in church with prayers for the parish, and for all who live and work here. Last year some of us walked around our parish boundary, 'beating the bounds', reminding ourselves of where we fit into our community as a church – and of all that particularly belongs to us as a proper focus of activity and prayer. I'll be saying a bit more about that in the sermon during the podcast, and in fact, I'll be using my daily exercise on Sunday to beat the bounds myself – if you want to look at the route, there is a map of the parish [here](#). It's sometimes a surprise when people discover they don't live in the parish -and many of our members don't. Why not check [here](#) to see where your local parish boundaries are and walk the boundaries yourself this week.

I mention this because it seems to me that a sense of place has become more important than we'd dreamed in the past weeks, as we've looked out of our windows or walked the local streets; nodded to neighbours as we clap for the NHS, or avoided them as we've past them on the street. Apart from the benefit of staying at home to save lives and the NHS, there has been something to be said for staying home because it's meant we have stayed local, we have stayed where we quite properly belong – and it's worth remembering that, when we are tempted or required to move rather more freely away from home.

I am always struck by the way people in the parish area have talked about St Mary's – how it is very much their church even if they aren't natural churchgoers. They may not belong to our congregation but the church certainly belongs to them. What has been surprising in the past weeks is the way some of our parishioners have expressed sadness and even consternation about our building being closed for the time being. They aren't missing, as perhaps we are, making their communion or singing hymns; they are missing something harder to define which is that sense of the church's place in the community and all it stands for that speaks of God's love, holiness, compassion and judgement.

Rogation isn't just about parish boundaries, of course. Rogation is more properly about prayer – prayer for our church and congregation certainly, but just as importantly prayer for our community, our neighbours, and all who pass through day by day. This week I hope you will pray for our parish this week, as well as the parish you live within: for its institutions, shops, businesses, schools and for the church which serves it.

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 Sunday Coffee Time – a chance to see familiar faces, and even 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 whether on screen or by telephone. Bring your own coffee.

The link to Zoom Sunday Coffee Time is here

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83346676568?pwd=OWdLcE9MY3k0a3JC UzJVejc5TTBmUT09>

Just click on it and follow the instructions, making sure your camera and microphone are on so that you can be seen and heard. (If you are using a smartphone, you'll need to download the app).

Or if you want to join in by telephone, dial 0203 051 2874 and follow the spoken instructions.

Meeting ID: 833 4667 6568

Password: 018594

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 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89960059757?pwd=UGcwU0tjSWJTRXV3R3lyVENoK3U3QT09>

or dial in via your telephone and follow the instructions.

0203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 899 6005 9757

Password: 759955

This Thursday 21 May is Ascension Day, the last day of Eastertide, and the day when we celebrate Christ's returning to his father in glory. We can't keep the festival in church but you can listen to the annual Service for Ascension Day on BBC Radio 4, at 8pm, from St Martin's in the Fields. It's a celebration but also a time to reflect on the present and find hope for the future.

The service, a tapestry of words and music, will be led by the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Revd Dr Sam Wells. The Revd Marie-Elsa Bragg will give a series of reflective meditations reflecting on how people approach death, grief and despair, and provide a poetic vision of the future which acknowledges the triumphant power of love.

Give your child expert English and French tuition from one of our own choral scholars at St Mary in the Boltons

Is your child revising for online exams? Do they need some extra help in English language/literature or French language? In these trying times, it can understandably be very difficult for your child to stay motivated and focussed on schoolwork. An online tutor is

a great way to help keep them on track and to take the pressure off you, as parents. Kate Lowe is an English literature graduate (BA University of Cambridge) who is also a choral scholar with us here at St Mary in the Boltons, and who has a wealth of experience in online tutoring. If your child needs some extra help with schoolwork, do take a look at and share Kate's website, <https://katelowemezzo.wordpress.com> . Whether it is English, French or Oxbridge interview preparation, Kate is here to help your child fulfil their potential. Contact details for Kate can be found on her website.

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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