

[www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk](http://www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk)

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## St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

This week in our worship we are keeping the Sunday after the Ascension. Ascensiontide is the transition season between Easter and the Feast of Pentecost. We are soon to tumble into the long season of Trinity – more on that in weeks to come.

As the country begins to look to greater freedom from the lockdown, I wonder how you are coping with this new season of transition where you are? The streets are suddenly busier, noisier, more crowded. I confess I rather enjoyed the silence and peace while it lasted, but will be very glad when we may meet again face to face, and all the more so when we can sit and pray with each other in church or in our homes.

I commend the church garden as a place of peace and beauty. You might consider coming in when you want to meet that one person at a time, as prescribed by the government's guidance. I'd be glad to chat with individuals there, should that be helpful. We continue to give thanks for the benefactors whose generous donations enabled us to refurbish it last

year. We were saddened to hear that one of them, a close neighbour, James Sherwood died this week. Please pray for his family in this time. May he rest in peace.

**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. After last week's Zoom chaos (Not caused be me, I was glad to discover) we'll be glad to see as many of you as would like to come along. Bring your own coffee.

The link to Zoom Coffee Hour is here:

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

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

### **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.

### **June Clarion – your articles, please!**

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**

As with all of us, the financial situation at St Mary's is serious. Our church still needs to meet its costs of paying our Common Fund to the diocese and the salaries of our lay staff who are continuing to work or be furloughed. Our Sunday collections and income from have stopped during the closure, as has the important income from hall lettings. Thank you to all those who have continued to support St Mary's through regular giving and one off donations. Can I please encourage you, if you are one of those would normally put 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 maintain our ministry in this difficult period.

PCC of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude

Account Number: 80692190

Sort code: 20-80-14

### **Theology in Lockdown**

Theological reflection is part of what we should be doing as part of our Christian discipleship. One of the things that has come out of this period of lockdown has been a range of opportunities for thinking about God, about our faith, about the church's role in our world. I hope I can bring some of what's available to you in these newsletters. This week I commend to you [Towers of Faith](#), which is a series of recorded talks, which will introduce viewers to some of the people whose lives have shone brightly with the light of Christ, encouraging and inspiring people's faith over great time and distance. The talks are long, but perhaps will encourage and inspire your own theological thinking.

For a more family friendly way to think about theology, this [Family Fun](#) from the Diocesan Children's Ministry office might give you something to do during half term.

**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](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**  
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