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St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

This week we are keeping the first Sunday in Ordinary Time. But this week we are anything but ordinary – I know I make the same joke every year, but it's more true this year than ever.

New developments

In a world of bad news stories, there is some good, as, along with permission for single adults to form bubbles with other households, allowing precious contact long missed, we are now allowed to enter places of worship for individual prayer, from this weekend. At St

Mary's this is good news indeed, since we have always been the sort of church that stays open even when services aren't happening. Other churches will choose not to open for good reason, and other places of worship like mosques or temples where prayer solely communal won't benefit from this new regulation. We feel fortunate to be able to welcome visitors in this way, daily between 10am and 2pm, with the support of volunteers who will keep watch, and make sure visitors are observing the proper distancing and hygiene. If you would like to join the rota, let me or the Office know – we may be able to extend the opening hours if you do. Our church is a place where people have always been welcome to come to sit, or reflect, to be still, to meet God who we believe is particularly (but not only) present in the church's holy space, so the prospect of opening is a particular joy for us.

Worship

As I said last week, we are unlikely to be able to worship together in church for several more weeks, so we are pleased that this newsletter and the podcasts are keeping you connected to the worshipping life of St Mary's. If you've not tried it yet, do click on the link to the podcasts – it's an audio file, with prayers, readings, a homily and some excellent music for Sundays. No need to Zoom or anything like that – just listen and respond, and sing the hymns loudly in the privacy of your own home. And if you'd like to add your voice as a reader, do let me know.

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 each Sunday at 11.30am – a chance to see familiar faces, and even to chat in small groups for a while. After last week's Zoom chaos (Not caused by 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. This week Leo Fraser Mackenzie will be hosting this meeting (as I shall be on leave).

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 is said Monday – Friday at 8.30 via Zoom. It's a short said service, with the text of prayers and readings provide on screen, so no need to worry about having the right book to join in. You can find the service on

the CofE's app <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Join us via the Zoom link below.

<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

Next week's Podcast for Sunday 21 June – Trinity 2 We are delighted that the preacher will be the Reverend Lesley Perry, who has become a regular member of our congregation.

The Clarion for June is available [here](#) to download. There are paper copies available in the church porch, and you are welcome to pick one up, to share with friends. The next issue will be our Summer (July-August) edition, and the theme will be Unction - or Anointing of the sick. The healing ministries have been much on our minds recently. Perhaps you have something you'd like to write about for the Clarion. Your COVID and lockdown experiences are also welcome! Deadline Jun 28.

How to Live: A new parish book group on Wednesday evenings has begun using the wonders of videoconferencing. Non-computer users are also able to join these meetings by telephone, so everyone can be included. There will be further information in the June Clarion, about how it will work, but I wanted to give people a chance to get hold of the book we shall be reading together. We will begin with *How to Live: a guide to the Christian Journey*, by Stephen Cottrell and Steven Croft. The book is available to order from Church House Bookshop for £9.99, but I will gladly order it for you, if you let me know. All are welcome to join in. The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday 24 June at 7.30. The link is here: Jenny Welsh is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Book Group How to Live

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84209186525?pwd=QU04VTk3SlhnMSt3VGFwWb3RiMkhoUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 0918 6525

Password: 240452

Bells for Grenfell This evening at 6pm our Verger will be ringing our bell for the 3rd anniversary of the Grenfell Fire, along with churches all over London. If you want to know more, check <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/church-bells-to-ring-across-london-to-mark-3rd-anniversary-of-tragedy-at-grenfell-tower/> Listen out for the sound of the bells, and pray for that community around the tower still struggling after three years.

An invitation to St Mary's Quiz Night by Zoom on Saturday 20th June at 8pm, bring your own refreshments

We are so sorry not to be able to host our Summer Fair this year, but we hope this fun

Summer Fair - themed quiz will provide some solace and some entertainment in its place. There will be a whole range of different types of questions so you definitely don't need to be a Mastermind champion to take part.

To participate and get full joining details please register by sending an email to Leo Fraser-Mackenzie - frasermackenzie@hotmail.com. Register as a team, or as an individual and we will find a team for you to join. Teams of 4, please. You do not have to be a Zoom user to join in. You can also join the Quiz by ordinary telephone. If you know anybody who would like to join but who does not use email or Zoom please let Leo know when you register your interest. Full details will be sent out during the week. There is no entry fee, but we would be very grateful for a donation to St Mary's after so many weeks without any collections in church.

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 services 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

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. **NB They are also looking for clothes** for boys and girls aged 5 to 12 years old who have grown out of their clothes in the past couple of months. Can you help?

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.

Finally, I am going to be taking a few days leave from Sunday 14 – Thursday 18 June, inclusive. If there is an urgent pastoral issue, please call the Verger, 07881865386, and Dave will relay urgent messages. Thanks go to Leo Fraser Mackenzie who will host Sunday Coffee and also Morning Prayers in my absence.

Blessings,



The Revd Jenny Welsh
Vicar

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