

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk



St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

This week we are keeping the Seventh Sunday after Trinity.

The services this week will be at 8am – Holy Communion (BCP), and 10.30am Holy Eucharist, with music and sermon. The preacher both at 10.30am and in the podcast will be the Reverend Philip Welsh.

If you come along to church, you'll be asked to sanitise your hands on entry, and invited

to place your offering in the plate at the back or use the contactless point. There is room in church for lots of people, particularly if the regular members are generous enough to fill the pews from the front, rather than sitting in 'your' seat, so that newcomers or visitors (or latecomers) are able to find a place to sit. There will be chairs in the transepts as well.

Face coverings Please note that as of Friday 24 July, we are strongly advised that all who attend public worship should wear face coverings, in order to protect each other from COVID. Therefore, can I ask you to please bring a face covering when you come to church and wear it during the service (apart from the very young or otherwise exempt) I know that this will feel very odd for many of us, not least those who are leading worship. We will worry about being heard, or understood or recognised. We will wonder whether it's not quite 'proper' to cover our face in church. Some may even decide that it will mean worshiping in church will become unbearable and so will opt not to come. This is understandable. However, in the interests of public health it will be an act of generosity to help keep one another safe, as we make our own offering of worship and praise to the God who is generous to us (and indeed the same God who was 'veiled in flesh' as the hymn goes, for our sake.) Obviously when we take communion we can remove them, with careful hand hygiene measures. Thank you, in anticipation for your help with this.

Children are very welcome to sit with their families, and also to bring along something quiet in case they need other occupation during the service – but NO electronic devices, please! Unfortunately we cannot make the Children's room available at this time.

If you are staying home or are on holiday, you can still access the podcast as usual. 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 when the church service is going on, and rejoice that unlike those in church, you are able to sing along with the hymns with gusto! Once again, we are grateful to John Ward who has been putting these together week by week. If you would like to help by recording a reading or intercessions for the podcast do please contact me for full instructions.

Morning and Evening Prayer are now being said in church each weekday except Thursday. All are welcome to join these short said services at the beginning and end of the day. Morning Prayer at 8.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.30pm in the chancel beyond the altar.

Living through Coronavirus – collecting our stories We would like to begin to collect the stories and reflections of members of the St Mary's congregation and wider community, and hope that what is shared might help us think about what sort of church we want to be. Send them to the Office (office@stmarytheboltens.org.uk) or to me. It would be good to hear your thoughts on these questions:

How have you spent the past 4 months of lockdown? Was it a time of endurance or discovery? Was it a time of frustration or liberation? Was it a time of happy solitude or

longing for time alone? What about your spiritual experience during this time? Have you prayed differently? Lived differently? Has your faith been questioned?

What has 'being Church' meant for you during this time? Has St Mary's meant something different, new to you? What might we do differently that would help you? And what would you like to do differently at St Mary's?

The Clarion summer issue for July and August is available [here](#) and also in hard copy from the church porch.

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

Food Banks The financial situation is dire for families and those whose jobs have been lost. We are glad to receive donations of food etc for Dad's House Food Bank which has opened at 22 Lillie Road in Fulham. They are open 7 days a week between 10am and 3pm and anyone is able to access their help without a voucher.

Blessings,



The Revd Jenny Welsh
Vicar

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