

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk



St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

We hope that your Christmas observances were joyful, even in this strange time of Tier 4 restrictions, and that whether on line or in person wherever you were, you were able to join in the celebration of the Nativity. In church we were pleased to welcome many visitors to the services, some who come each year, and others who came along for the first time, along with members of our regular congregation. This Christmas season (remember there are 12 days of Christmas!) we continue to be glad in the promise that in the dark place where we find ourselves, God's light, his Son's light, is still shining. To us is born the Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Tomorrow, Sunday 27 December, we are keeping as the Feast of St John the Evangelist. The Reverend Lesley Perry will be presiding at both services and preaching at 10.30. The Vicar is on leave this week and is grateful to Lesley for stepping in to lead the services.

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Holy Eucharist.

John Ward, our Director of Music is also taking some well earned leave after a particularly busy Advent and Christmas. We are so grateful for John's careful arrangement of the musical aspects of the services in this time, including providing the music in the podcasts and directing our professional singers in church, enabling us to offer beautiful worship, even if we've not been allowed to sing as a congregation.

The organist who was to play this week, Nicholas Woods, is self isolating, and so the service at 10.30 will be said, and without music.

Please note that there will NOT be a podcast of this service.

Join us for a Christmastide Zoomed Coffee Hour at 11.30am, and a chance to see each other face to face. Bring your own coffee and Christmas cheer.

The link is

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82542854185?pwd=eFZsYXdpUWRrNTITaVh5N3Zvakcrdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 4285 4185

Passcode: 146321

Or join by telephone: 0203 051 2874

Sunday 3 January 2021 Feast of the Epiphany

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Holy Eucharist with Procession of the Magi

Listen to the Podcast at 10.30.

The Church will be closed during the Christmas break: Saturday 26 December, and Monday 28 December – Friday 1 January. The Vicar will be on leave during this period, too. For urgent pastoral matters, please leave a message with Dave Ireton, the Verger, 07881 865 386 who will pass on messages to me.

Classical Christmas Concert Danae Eleni Tickets for Danae Eleni's concert (streamed from Warsaw) are now available here: <https://www.danaeeleni.com/shop/christmas-concert-2020-online-ticket>

The concert of songs, arias and carols is about one hour in length and will be available online from 4pm Thursday 10th December. (A ticket to access the concert is £5 - then you can watch it as many times as you want between then and the 12th January 2021). Danae has been part of the St Mary's community for a long time, singing in our choir and as a

soloist on Sundays and for festivals; and indeed continuing to give us wonderful music for our podcasts during the pandemic. Do have a listen to her concert during the Christmas period – and share it with your friends.

Stamps Please remember to bring your used postage stamps with a small margin of envelope still round them, to church to be given to the Leprosy Mission who raise money from them. There is a specially marked collection box at the back of the church.

Food Banks and Shelters

Thank you to all those who week by week remember to support the food bank and homeless charities by bringing in donations of food. These have been hugely appreciated by the people who receive them, who would otherwise struggle to put food on their tables. Please continue to help us to help those who in need, living locally.

Dad's House Food Bank is 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. This food bank's shelves are empty because of the huge increase in people accessing their help. Please help the most needy in our area by bringing along your donations of food to the church. [Here is a shopping list](#) if you aren't sure what to bring.

Glass Door Because of the pandemic, the usual model of church-based shelters is not possible. Instead, for the coldest months of the winter, Glass Door will provide Covid-safe single-occupancy rooms in two hostels in central London. Glass Door staff will be on-site around the clock in each hostel, meals will be provided and guests will also have access to and increased contact with our caseworkers.

Glass Door also plans to deliver a dinner service in partnership with local churches in four London boroughs: Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Richmond and Wandsworth.

People in need will be able to access the dinner service, with meals cooked and prepared by volunteers, every evening from early November until early April. Those who use the service also will be able to find food, water and other forms of practical support (such as phones and toiletries). The service also provides an opportunity for people to engage with Glass Door caseworkers who give advice and support to move beyond homelessness.

Finance and giving

Thank you to all those who have continued to support St Mary's through regular giving and one off donations. Our income suffered during the lockdown with the loss of Sunday collections as well as income from the Hall. We can now receive your offering in church using cash or the contactless devices. We encourage regular members of the congregation 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. We now accept donations on line, via the website, and the link is [here](#).

PCC of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude

Barclays Account Number: 80692 190

Sort code: 20-80-14

Thank you!

Thank you to our lay staff and volunteers who have been extremely busy during this difficult year. In particular, I want to mention Dave Ireton, Virger, Jane Ellard, Parish Manager, Margarete Geier, Sacristan, and John Ward, Director of Music. They have given their all to keep the church open and beautiful, the office running efficiently and in good order, and to enable us to offer our prayers and praises in worship, not just during the year, but particularly during our preparations for Christmas.

Finally, Philip and I thank you for the many kind greetings for Christmas which we have received. We wish you all a very happy Christmastide, and a blessed and peaceful new year.

Blessings,



The Revd Jenny Welsh

Vicar

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