

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk



St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

The new tier 4 restrictions came upon us very suddenly, leaving many of us feeling uncertain, and wondering what the next weeks will hold; and more pressingly, finding ourselves adrift in a time when we are longing for something comforting and familiar to help us celebrate Christmas, whether in company or alone. We cling to 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.

This comes with heartfelt prayers from us all at St Mary's for a very happy, if rather

unusual, Christmas. This week's services will be in church, taking care to make sure that we are COVID secure, keeping to the regulations about distancing, face coverings and alas, without singing inside the church. It's all going to very strange but, I hope, joyful

Christmas – Epiphany Services in church and online

The Crib Service, Christmas Eve, 4pm. Normally held in church this year's crib service will be a purely domestic event. It will be an interactive service inviting you to put your own crib together at home, as we hear the Christmas Story. If you don't have a crib set already, you can make your own – you can find some templates [here in a zip-file](#). The collection at this service is usually given to the Charitable Pot, and this year, we are asking for donations once again – either cheques or cash clearly marked for the Charities, or via our [online giving page](#).

Topic: Christmas Eve at Home - Crib Service

Time: Dec 24, 2020 04:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88095241408?pwd=TW13T1ZLSWRpTXMzbXIGMW9NZXFCQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9524 1408

Passcode: 183288

Or join by telephone 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 880 9524 1408

Passcode: 183288

Christmas Eve

***7pm** The First Eucharist of Christmas with music (fully booked)

Christmas Day

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP) no booking needed.

***10.30am** Family Eucharist with music (fully booked)

Christmas by Podcast – available from the evening on Christmas Eve - join at 10.30am and hear (and sing) familiar carols, readings, and sermon, in the comfort of your own home. The link is [here](#), and the order of service is available [here](#), or in large print, [here](#).

*Please note that these services are now fully booked. There may well be space for 'walk-ins', that is, people who have not booked, but this is not guaranteed. If you have booked but decide you won't be coming to either of the services, do let us know, so that your space may be taken by others, by replying to this email.

Sunday 27 December Feast of St John the Evangelist. NB there will NOT be a podcast this Sunday.

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Holy Eucharist Preacher and president the Reverend Lesley Perry

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: 80692190

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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