

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk



St Mary The Boltons

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



Friends,

Happy New Year! We are glad to be able to remain open for public worship and private prayer in this new phase of the pandemic, and doing our best to keep the church Covid-secure for all who come. Please will you help us by continuing to social distance, keep your face coverings on in church, and staying home if you have any symptoms. Let us know if you become ill, too - we are glad to pray for those who are isolated or ill at home or in hospital.

It may not feel like it but we are still in Christmastide – until January 6, which is the Feast of the Epiphany and 12th Night. However, on Sunday we will keep **Epiphany Sunday** in church, with Holy Eucharist and Procession of the Magi. The music will be sung unaccompanied by a quartet of singers. The service will also be podcasted [here](#) and the order of service can be found [here](#) and a large print edition found [here](#)

Sunday Zoomed Coffee Hour at 11.30am The pandemic shows no sign of abating very soon, and more of us may be feeling more isolated than before. Why not join us for this chance to see one another face to face, if not in three dimensions. Bring your own coffee. Many thanks to Leo Fraser Mackenzie for hosting these sessions each week.

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

Next week Sunday, 10 January we will mark the Baptism of Christ At the 10.30 Eucharist, will renew our baptism promises together, along with some of the families whose children were baptised in 2020.

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.

Recycling Christmas Cards Please bring in your old Christmas cards to be recycled (or possibly upcycled) by users of Bishop Creighton House, a local charity addressing issues of social isolation and disadvantage.

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 a very 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
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