



# Weekly Newsletter

## 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Whether you are a regular worshipper or visiting St Mary's for the first time, we welcome you and hope that you enjoy worshipping with us today. Please do introduce yourself to one of the sidespeople or the clergy.



St Mary's seeks to be an inclusive church and welcoming to people of all ages and backgrounds. We have a carpeted area for the younger members of the congregation, if they wish to use it.

Communicant members of any Christian church are welcome to make their communion with us. If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like to receive God's blessing, simply hold the service booklet when you come to the altar rail.

We thank you for your donations. If you are a UK tax payer the money you place in the collection can be increased by around 25% if you fill out an envelope available by the main entrance. This allows us to retrieve the tax you have already paid and put it towards the work of St Mary's. You can also donate using the contactless payment points at the West end of the church.

Further information about St Mary's, our life and ministry can be found on: our website [www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk)

St Mary's Campaign 2023 <https://www.stmaryscampaign2023.org.uk/> and <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmaryswarwickcampaign2023>

Twitter @StMarysWarwick and @ChoirsofWarwick

Facebook @StMarysWarwick and St Mary's Warwick Community

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/CollegiateChurchofStMaryWarwick>

Please note that for legal and copyright reasons the taking of videos, photographs and recordings is not permitted during services.

## **LIVESTREAMING - help us to connect with our online congregation**

We provide a live-stream of our 10.30am Sunday service on Facebook and YouTube, and the 10.30am order of service, weekly newsletter, monthly prayer diary and parish magazine can also be viewed and downloaded from our website. Please note that for our 10.30am service the South side of St Mary's (by the font) remains a zone just for those wearing masks and maintaining social distance.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Under GDPR, St Mary's must have consent of anyone whose image might be included in our broadcast. Every attempt is made not to show faces but this can happen if people turn around during the service. The congregation is not filmed whilst receiving communion, and side aisles and the back third of the centre of the church are not covered by our cameras. The full policy can be read on the noticeboards or from the "Featured" section of the front page of our website. Please indicate your consent by using the link to the online form on our website.

***Loving Lord, we give you thanks that you have sustained us during the time of interregnum at St. Mary's.***

*We now look forward to welcoming Canon Angus to be our new rector. Be with Angus, with his wife Suzette and their family as they plan to start a new life with us in Warwick. We pray that the transition from their current parish to life at St Mary's will be a smooth one.*

*We ask your blessing on the congregation of Angus' current parish as they will soon be in an interregnum and will be seeking a new leader for their church.*

*Continue to bless us at St. Mary's. Help us to serve you with joy and enable us to be your servants, doing your work in our community and as Angus becomes our new leader, help us to support him in his ministry.*

*We ask all these things in Jesus' name, Amen.*

# SERVICES

## 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP - said)
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Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Jonathan Hearn

*Service begins in the Book of Common Prayer on page 294 and readings on p. 114*

10.30am	Choral Eucharist Girls' and Men's Voices also on Facebook & YouTube
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Celebrant: Revd Canon Peter Holliday

Reading: Rev.12.1-5a - Clive Black

Intercessions: Ian Barnicoat

Organ Voluntary: *Mit diesem neuen Jahre* Peeters

**Everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the service.**

5.30pm	Candlemas Carol Service Girls' and Men's Voices
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*See special Order of Service*

Director of Music: Oliver Hancock  
Assistant Director of Music: Mark Swinton  
Organ Scholar: Colin Millington

# NOTICES

## INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW RECTOR

The installation of our new Rector, Reverend Canon Angus Aagaard, will take place in St Mary's Church at 4.00pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March. All are warmly invited to attend and we hope that some of Angus' current congregation will be joining us. Following the service, there will be refreshments and an opportunity for you to meet and welcome our new Rector.

## CHURCH TOWER UPDATE- JANUARY 2024

This is my third update on the tower project, following those in the 2023 March and September Newsletters.

We are now in the completion stages of the refurbishment work and soon the scaffolding will start to come down. This will be done progressively from 24 January to the end of February. Work at the top of the tower and on the clockfaces will be more time consuming, so it may look that nothing much is happening with the scaffold, but I can assure you it will be. For safety reasons, the roads around the church will be closed from 22 January to 19 April, but every effort will be made to reopen before that date.

In terms of work, the good news is that everything is still on time, the cost targets for phases 1 and 2 are holding and, after very careful analysis of the church accounts, we can complete all the tower works in 2024. In the September update I said we would have to defer the phase 3 East face clock and related building works due to a lack of funds. Now, the Project Pool has agreed to underwrite any costs we have which would reduce the cash kept for absolute emergencies, a separate account holding approximately 6 months' worth of church bills. We are grateful for this undertaking but, to put everything into perspective, at the end of March the church will have nothing left in the building's capital account, having liquidated all its investments. This is not quite rock bottom but near enough.

Phase 3 of the tower work, the East face clock and related building work, will cost £70k and will proceed in April straight after phase 2. It will be carried out from scaffold erected on the North side of the church and using the church roof. The scaffold around the tower will be dismantled and most views of the tower - South, West and North - will be fully restored. The works buildings on the South side will remain but the church's main entrance will be open.

This project has been very difficult at times and there have been many great efforts to reach this stage. Ackroyd, the builders involved, have done much to keep work on time and cost. Mick Ackroyd and Mark Wilson have been particularly supportive, as have Mark Stewart (Church Architect), Andrew Gaunt (Quantity Surveyor) and Philip Morris (Telecoms adviser). In

particular, the church should appreciate and be thankful to the Church Warden, John Luxton, who has shouldered most of the burden on its behalf. A final mention to Clare Gould, Operations Manager, who took on the tower accounts in September and has provided much vital data on which to plan. I will send out one final status report later this year but, in the meantime, look forward to hearing the church bells ringing again in June from my garden on the High Street. Hopefully, 2024 will see the end of tower work for at least 50 years, as St Mary's welcomes its new vicar.

*John Edwards, Chair, St Mary's Church Tower Team*  
10/1/24

### **EXPLORING CONFIRMATION - FINAL CALL**

St Mary's will once again be hosting a confirmation service on behalf of the Diocese on Easter Eve, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. In preparation for this, Canon Peter will meet with anyone wishing to explore confirmation, the considered completion of full membership of the Church which for many began with infant baptism. For those who have not been baptised, both baptism and confirmation take place within the same service.

To enable arrangements to be made for confirmation preparation, please let Canon Peter know as soon as possible if you would like to consider confirmation. He will be at the 10.30am Eucharist service this Sunday and on Sunday week. You can also leave a message for him at the office or email him directly - [peter.holliday@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:peter.holliday@lichfield-cathedral.org) - and he is very happy to have a one-to-one conversation with anyone who would like to know more, without commitment.

### **CANDLEMAS CAROL SERVICE**

We hope you enjoyed the Carol Services for Advent and Christmas last term, and our recent Epiphany Carol Service. All are invited to join us for our final Carol Service, completing the full cycle of the Christmas period. Candlemas Carols takes place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm.

### **QUIZ NIGHT WITH FISH'N'CHIPS**

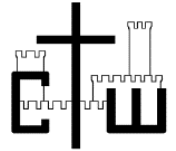
You and your friends and family are cordially invited to the next Friends of the Choir social event. This will be a Quiz Night with fish and chips supper on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Doors open at 6.40pm with the quiz starting at 7.00pm; supper will be served at approximately 7.50pm. The cost for the quiz and supper is £12 per person. If you would like to take part in the quiz but not the supper, tickets are £5 per person. We hope as many of you as possible will join us for what is always a really enjoyable evening with our own excellent quiz master, Oliver Hancock. To book your place, please email Elaine Dixon by **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**: [elainedixon22@gmail.com](mailto:elainedixon22@gmail.com) If, at the last moment you are unable to attend and have ordered food there will be a charge of £9 per person to cover the cost of the food.

## **WARWICK SCHOOL SHOWCASE**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February we will be hosting a trio of outstanding young musicians from Warwick School, including Charlie Feaver who has previously enthralled us with his cello playing. Joining him will be James Hughes on the clarinet and Aaden So on the piano, together with accompanist Emily Hooker; their programme will include music by Beethoven, Martinů, Rachmaninov and Weber. As always, the performance begins at 1.15pm and is free to enter with a retiring collection.

## **CTW PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The next CTW Prayer Breakfast will be held at St Mary Immaculate Church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Everyone is welcome. For more information: [www.ctwarwick.org.uk](http://www.ctwarwick.org.uk)



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Lent will be upon us in a matter of weeks, and we will be very pleased to see you at the 7.30pm Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February. The Gentlemen of the Choir will sing the Lent Prose and music by Byrd and Tomkins.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children of all ages are invited to meet by the organ during the first hymn, when we will go out to the Vestry (through the door under the organ case at the front left of church) for stories, crafts and more. We'll be back in church in time for Communion. If you are pre-school age or younger, please bring a grown-up with you. For more information, please talk to Kirsteen Robson (07799 682872 / [kirsteenr@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenr@gmail.com)).

## **ST MARY'S PRAYER DIARY**

The Prayer Diary produced by Coventry Diocese can be found here: <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/prayer-diary.php> January's theme is *Healthy People/Healthy Communities*.

The following prayer is for the CMM Sisters:

*Father God, we remember with thanks the CMM Sisters in Tanzania and Zambia, who carefully keep your commandments, loving you and loving their neighbour as themselves. We thank you for the gentle rain of your Holy Spirit that continues to water their work in nurseries and schools, bringing forth the fruit of the next generation. Remembering your promise to your people in Leviticus, we pray that you will send physical rain in its season, that the ground the Sisters tend in your name may yield good crops and the trees fine fruit, to feed and fund your people in those places. Amen.*



## **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

The new year has started and it's time again to count The Children's Society boxes, so please start bringing your Children's Society boxes back into church. We did very well last year and raised £655.15 so hopefully this year we can match this amount or indeed hopefully raise more. We will count the money and return the boxes to the back of the church within 2 weeks. Thank you for your help in raising money for the continuing work of The Children's Society.

*Gill and David Benson*

## **ROAD CLOSURES**

In order to enable the removal of scaffolding, and to ensure public safety whilst this work takes place, the roads surrounding the church are closed for approximately 13 weeks. The roads affected are Northgate Street, Church Street and Old Square. Parking will be suspended on these roads and a one-way system will be in operation for diverting vehicles around these streets. We are doing what we can to work with these issues and expect to be in a position to ask the Council to re-open the roads in March/April. We do apologise for the length of time that these roads will be closed and for the disruption that this will cause. We understand the difficulties that this can cause surrounding communities and would like to thank you for your continued patience.

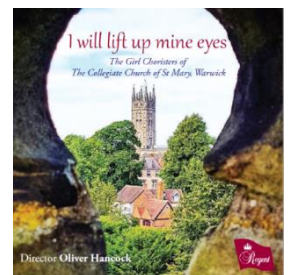
## **CHURCH ACCESS DURING ROAD CLOSURES**

During this period we will still be able to use the West Door. Please note that access will be via the Northgate Street entrance only.

## **GIRL CHORISTERS' CD**

You may recall that in April the Girl Choristers recorded a CD of anthems for upper voices. We are very grateful to all those who contributed to the CD, and excited to hear the finished product in the New Year. If you would like to sponsor the CD, the Director of Music would be very pleased to hear from you:

[dofm@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:dofm@stmaryswarwick.org.uk)



## **FOODBANK**

There is a container at the back of church for those wishing to donate items to help those in our community suffering hardship at this critical time. More information to follow on which items are most in need.

## **PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Ellie Booth, Charles Brown, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Chris Hodgetts, Elizabeth Holroyde, Mandeep Madar, Chris Shilton.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:**

Dan Robertson, Ralph Thornton.

## SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 28<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	10.00am 5.30pm	Holy Communion Choral Evensong
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	5.30pm	Choral Evensong

# ***FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES***

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Second Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	5.30pm Choral Evensong
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## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	5.30pm Choral Evensong
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## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February - First Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	5.30pm Choral Evensong
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## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Second Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	5.30pm Choral Evensong
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