



# Weekly Newsletter

## 11<sup>th</sup> February, 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

11<sup>th</sup> February, 2024  
Sunday next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP - said)

Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Jonathan Hearn

*Service begins in the Book of Common Prayer on page 294 and readings on p.125*

10.30am Choral Eucharist  
St Mary's Scholars  
also on Facebook & YouTube

Celebrant: Revd Canon Peter Holliday

Reading: 2 Cor. 4. 3-6 - Gail Guest

Intercessions: Tony Fitzpatrick

Organ Voluntary: *Fantasia in G minor (T.255)* Pachelbel

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

5.30pm Choral Evensong  
St Mary's Scholars

Hymn: 177

Preces: Morley

Psalm: 2

Reading: 2 Pet.1.16-end - Nicky Hendry

Magnificat: Paul Edwards in *C sharp minor*

Reading: Mark 9.[2-8] 9-13 - Chris Sharp

Nunc dimittis: Paul Edwards in *C sharp minor*

Responses: Morley

Anthem: *He, watching over Israel* Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel slumbers not, nor sleeps.  
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will  
quicken thee.

*Words: From the oratorio 'Elijah'*

Hymn: 389

Preacher: Doreen Mills

Hymn: 399

Organ voluntary: *Toccata in D minor (BWV 538)* J.S. Bach

Director of Music: Oliver Hancock

Assistant Director of Music: Mark Swinton

Organ Scholar: Colin Millington

# NOTICES

## PCC MEETING

The PCC met on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. It was a relatively short meeting, but most uplifting and hopeful. The attendance numbers for the Christmas services were very pleasing, and were almost at pre-covid levels. There were updates on the Service of Installation of Canon Angus on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, and how this will be a joyous beginning to a new era at St Mary's. New members of staff have begun to make a great impact on the running of the church, and this has freed up time for other employees to focus on the job they were originally employed to do. The PCC expressed their heartfelt thanks to everyone, including all the amazing volunteers, for their hard work and unwavering commitment to St Mary's. Finance continues to cause concern, but this has been posted elsewhere in the newsletter. Oliver flagged up the continuing decline of the organ, which will need attention in the near future, and poses yet more issues for the church and its financial priorities.

*Jayne McHale, Chair of PCC*

## INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW RECTOR

The installation of our 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.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins this week, and we will be very holding a Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm. The Gentlemen of the Choir will sing the Lent Prose and music by Byrd and Tomkins.

## ST MARY'S SCHOLARS

We are very grateful to St Mary's Scholars for leading our choral worship this weekend, while the Robed Choirs take their Half Term break. If you - or someone you know - might be interested in joining St Mary's Scholars, please contact their Director, Mark Swinton for more details:

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

## FISH'N'CHIPS & QUIZ NIGHT

Huge thanks to everyone who came to the Friends of the Choir evening last week: with over 90 people, it was a very jolly and sociable event which raised useful funds for Choir activities. Particular thanks to Elaine Dixon for her superb organisational skill and for co-ordinating delivery of a delicious supper.

## **LIVESTREAMING**

The Installation Service on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00 pm will be livestreamed. Please note, with apologies, we are unable to Livestream the following Sunday morning services: 3<sup>rd</sup> March; 7<sup>th</sup> April.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School is taking a break for half-term. We will meet again from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. All children, visitors and regular members, are welcome. For more information, please contact Kirsteen Robson (07799 682872 / [kirsteenr@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenr@gmail.com)).

## **RECITALS PAUSED**

Our Friday lunchtime recitals will resume on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March with an organ recital by our own Oliver Hancock. Watch this space for more details!

## **DIOCESE EQUIP HUB LENT SERIES 2024**

The Acting Bishop of Coventry, Archdeacons, and Dean of Coventry will share their passions for faith and ministry, from sharing their faith, to seeing God in the world around us, over five Monday evening zoom encounters during Lent. Each weekly session will start at 8.00pm and last for 45 minutes.

For more information, please contact [Rob.Harrison@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Rob.Harrison@Coventry.Anglican.org)

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

The Prayer Diary produced by Coventry Diocese can be found here: <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/prayer-diary.php> February's theme is *Watch and Pray*. 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.*

## **LEAMINGTON MUSIC CONCERT - VALENCIA BARYTON TRIO**

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. 'Haydn & Friends' - A rare opportunity to hear and see a baryton, an extraordinary string instrument that was favoured and played by Prince Nicholas at the Court in Esterhazy. Haydn composed some 80 string quartets, 104 symphonies, but in a golden decade (1765-75), he wrote nearly 200 works featuring the baryton, including 123 Trios. Luigi Tomasini, born in Pesaro, was leader of the orchestra at Esterhazy and the Austrian virtuoso gamba player Andreas Lidl eventually moved to London where he died in 1789. Tickets and full details on [www.leamingtonmusic.org](http://www.leamingtonmusic.org) or Visit Warwick in the Court House or call 01926 334418.

## 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.

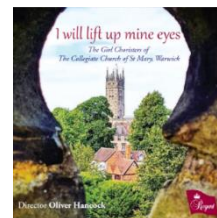
I will send out one final status report later this year but, in the meantime, look forward to hearing the church bells ringing again in June from my garden on the High Street. Hopefully, 2024 will see the end of tower work for at least 50 years, as St Mary's welcomes its new vicar.

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

## 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)



## CALLING ALL MEN SINGERS

If you are a man who loves singing but doesn't quite aspire to the dizzy heights of St. Mary's Choir or the Scholars, maybe the Two Castles Male Voice Choir would be right for you. We rehearse every Monday evening at 7.30pm in St. Nicholas Church under the baton of acclaimed conductor Antoine Mitchell. If you're interested, please give Roger a call on 07410-930 - or just come along to our Open Rehearsal on Monday 19th February.

## 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.

## CLEANING UP

Holy Dusters meet on the last Thursday of each month to help keep St Mary's clean and sparkling. The first date for 2024 is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 11.00am-1.00pm. Anyone wishing to join us for coffee, cake and cleaning would be very welcome.



## 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:

Ralph Thornton.

### SERVICES WEEK BEGINNING 11<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	Holy Communion No Choral Evensong
	7.30pm	Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	5.30pm	No Choral Evensong

## ***FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES***

### 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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### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	5.30pm Choral Evensong
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### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Fourth before Lent Mothering Sunday

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