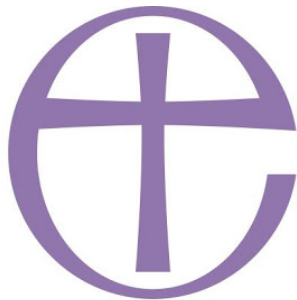




# Weekly Newsletter

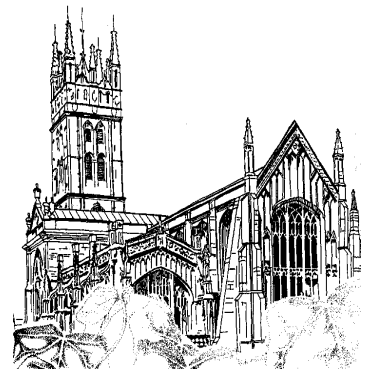
**WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.** At the start of January the Westminster Parliament placed England into a third lockdown. For the time being our weekly Sunday Agape Service will be live streamed on Facebook and then uploaded onto YouTube. All other activities are also suspended in line with the government's *Stay at Home* message.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

We are constantly monitoring further guidance from the Government and the Church of England.

Throughout the pandemic we have continued to produce our news sheet, prayer diary and parish magazine, which can be viewed and downloaded from our website. The church office is working from home at present and can be contacted through the details at the end of the newsletter or online.



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)

**Twitter** @StMarysWarwick and @ChoirsofWarwick

**Facebook** @StMarysWarwick and **St Mary's Warwick Community**

**YouTube**

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

# SERVICES

7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Lent 3

10.30am

Agape Service

on Facebook & YouTube

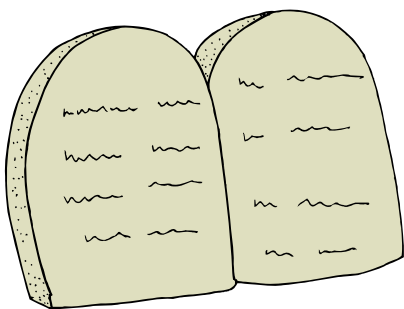
Officiant:	Doreen Mills
Preacher:	Vaughan Roberts
Hymn:	Jerusalem the golden (NEH 381)
Anthem:	<i>Expectans expectavi</i> Wood
Hymn:	My God, I love thee (NEH 73ii)
Organ Voluntary:	<i>Dies sind die heil'gen Zehen Gebot</i> (BWV 678) J. S. Bach

Director of Music: Oliver Hancock  
Assistant Director of Music: Mark Swinton  
Organ Scholar: Lucy Morrell

# NOTICES

## A SEASON OF PENANCE

This Sunday is the second in the season of Lent. The readings in our live



streamed Agape service will be Exodus 20: 1-17 (God's giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses) and John 2: 13-22 (Jesus' cleansing of the temple). If you are joining us in sharing



food and drink, something that reflects those encounters would be appropriate for today's worship. Join us on Facebook or later on YouTube if you can.

## A SEASON OF UNCERTAINTY

The phased re-opening plan has been updated following the publication of the government's roadmap and this was discussed by Standing Committee this week. As we go to press we are still awaiting advice from the Church of England nationally and other bodies (e.g. the Royal School of Church Music). As regular readers will be aware we've drawn up a plan based on the National Health Service's chart of likelihood and consequence. This gives us a means of assessing the risk of restarting and reopening different aspects of our ministry, particularly as

conditions change in relation to the pandemic and government advice. Within this context a number of factors will be important, including:

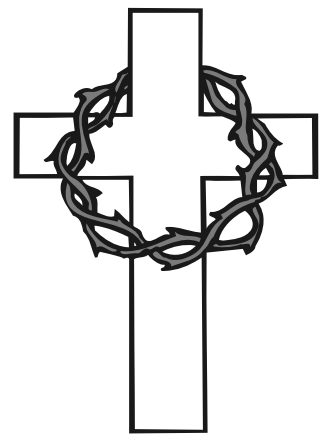
- **Prevalence:** Transmission rates in the locality will be the key factor here.
- **Variant:** We are experiencing new, more transmissible variants.
- **Numbers:** The number of people you are mixing with multiplies the likelihood risk of coming into contact with someone with the virus.
- **Time:** The longer you are with people the higher the risk of transmission.
- **Proximity:** The closer you are to people the higher the risk of transmission.
- **Protection:** Mask wearing reduces the risks of transmission. If there are individuals who cannot wear a mask, there is an increased risk for them, and for those around them.
- **Singing and loud speaking:** These activities project water droplets and vapour further, which increases the risks of transmission. This is often combined with the increased risk from not wearing a mask.

At present we have a tentative plan to open for an in-person service on Easter Day, which will need to be non-choral and ticketed. Watch out for more information in the future newsletters.

## ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We are expecting this to take place on Zoom but that will be confirmed nearer the time. Groups having been invited to submit reports if they have matters to share from the unusual and challenging last twelve months.

		Consequence				
		1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25



## REGULAR MEETING

As mentioned, the PCC's Standing Committee met this week and other business included an update on the capital campaign from Clare Sawdon; discussion about the much needed scaffolding for our tower, which has been held up by planning for the necessary road closures; and discussion about St Mary's very difficult financial circumstances following the pandemic.



Take Note...

## ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION



With spring comes the time for revision of the parish electoral roll. If you would like to be added or removed, or to check your status on the roll, please email the Electoral Roll officer on [om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk). Anyone entered on the roll since the creation of a new one in 2019 does not need to reapply. The closing date for amendments is Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## PARISH MAGAZINE

The new edition of the Parish Magazine is now available via the What's On tab of the church website. Featuring food for thought, thought for food and much else, it is well worth a read.

## KEEP WATCHING

We are thrilled to have been awarded a grant of £4,000 from the 'Hope Beyond' programme of Allchurches Trust. This programme has been put in place to enable churches and Christian charities to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the Coronavirus pandemic.



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We applied for a grant to help us fund our plans to improve our livestreaming capabilities, which will assist the generous funding we've received from the Friends of St Mary's. We have already completed phase 1 and hopefully everyone has noticed a distinct improvement in the sound quality. Now we are working on ideas to improve the visual content of the stream with a more permanent setup. The next stage was approved by Standing Committee this week and we hope to have the new equipment installed for Easter.

## **LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH (LLF)**

The Church of England is keenly aware that issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience; their sense of identity; their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them. The life and mission of our Church, and of the worldwide Anglican Communion, are affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements among us which have been debated and discussed on many occasions over the years.

These divisions have come into sharper focus because of society's changing perspectives and practices. The Church wants to understand what it means to follow Christ in love and faith given the questions about human identity and the variety of patterns of relationship emerging in our society, including marriage, civil partnership, cohabitation, celibacy and friendship.



# LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) resources (video based course, podcasts, films, papers) are now available. The hope is that they will be used by people in Church of England churches across the country to learn and pray together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Find out more and access the LLF resources at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>

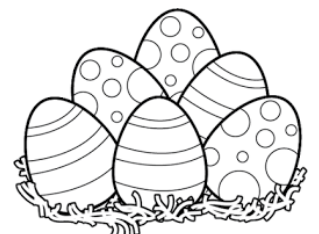
## **EASTER CARDS AND GIFTS**

We have a range of Easter cards and gifts for sale from the stock remaining after the church shop was mothballed last spring. There is a catalogue downloadable from

[http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk/images/uploads/Easter\\_stock.pdf](http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk/images/uploads/Easter_stock.pdf), with



details of how to order. Payment will be by bank transfer or cheque through the post and items will be delivered free to Warwick and Leamington or posted elsewhere (postal charges will apply). Collection will not be possible while the church remains closed.



## CHOIR TOUR TO POLAND

Given the difficulties of international travel, the decision has been made to postpone the Choir's tour to Poland until 2023, fitting in with St Mary's 900th anniversary. It's a disappointment, of course, but while vaccinations and the like are giving very positive results in the UK, the situation in Europe is rather different. Any and all donations towards the tour are ring-fenced and will be held for use in 2023.

## FABRIC UPDATE

Work on the roofs of the north entrance has now reached the lowest roof - that of the lobby and toilets - and the scaffolding has been removed. This is the home stretch of the project, with some refurbishment to complete inside once the roof is finally watertight. At a total project cost of over £170,000, we were only able to embark on this work thanks to a Culture Recovery Fund Major Works Fund grant, which covers 80% of the total. We are obliged to fund the remaining 20%.

The Public Notice of the application for the faculty for the roof reconstruction work has been published - a legal requirement before the Chancellor of the diocese may grant the confirmatory faculty, having previously issued the interim faculty allowing the works to take place immediately. For more information, see the home page of our website.

The erection of the tower scaffolding awaits a road closure plan and subsequent clearance from Warwickshire County Council, an issue which is proving to be hard - and likely to be extremely costly - to resolve, given the narrowness of the road and Warwick's convoluted one-way systems.

## DAILY HOPE PHONELINE

Daily Hope is a free national phone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19. A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love' provides a hymn and reflection.



## 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY GIVING

As restrictions continue, our income from collections, donations, concerts and weddings is likely to remain very low for some months, whilst our unavoidable running costs continue to be high. If you have not already done so, please consider setting up a Standing Order or making a one-off donation by cheque or bank transfer.



Alternatively we have a giving page at <https://www.give.net/20220625> or use the QR code to the right, where you may choose to give a one-time donation or set up monthly giving, including Gift Aid where appropriate. The service provider will take 3% of your total giving for each transaction so, if you are considering monthly giving, a Standing Order is still the best option! For more information please email our Operations

Manager, Mary Adams, on [om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk).

## LEAN INTO LENT

Our Diocese is seeking to support people through the coming penitential season with its Leaning into Lent project. The Diocesan website



explains: “Lent is obviously a very special time of walking with Jesus on that challenging path, of agony and love, to the cross. This year it feels different, coming as it does at the end of a year that has been painful, isolating and uncertain. Perhaps that gives us a new insight; at the same time it makes us vulnerable, and in need of rest, retreat and nourishment ourselves. So this year, we want to encourage a sense of being one

Diocesan family, whilst necessarily being separated: for it to be a time of positive, Biblical gentleness in which we lean into Lent, leaning on the arms of each other and the God who supports us.

We would hope to encourage a sense of Sabbath Time, when we can create space in our lives for feeding our souls (and bodies) in whatever way we need, and claim the refreshment that God alone can give.

And where possible we aim to relieve the burden, rather than add to it in any way. So these are a number of resources we are making available and we hope you will find helpful, and use or adapt freely.”

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/leaning-into-lent-2021/>

## JOB VACANCY

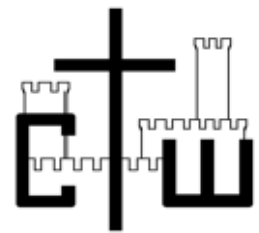
A brand-new Message Bus is heading to Coventry and Warwickshire. The bus will be a state-of-the art mobile youth centre working with churches and communities across the whole area to share the gospel. Step onboard and you'll find a bus packed with games consoles, a nail bar, games and much more, but most importantly it's somewhere young people get to hear about Jesus' love for them and connect with the local church.



The Message, a Christian charity, is looking for a bus manager/evangelist to head up their bus ministry in the Midlands. As well as running bus sessions in partnership with local churches, you'll be responsible for building relationships with churches and partners across Coventry and Warwickshire as well as leading on bus projects. For more information see <https://www.message.org.uk/jobs/bus-manager-evangelist/>. The closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

HOTS (Healing on the Street) cannot currently take place in the Market Place. Please contact [warwickhots@gmail.com](mailto:warwickhots@gmail.com) for prayer.



## DEEPER 2021

Castle Hill Baptist church will be running this year's Deeper from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March on Zoom. Dr John Andrews will be unpacking the letter to Philemon on the topic of 'Freedom Through Forgiving.' It should be a stimulating but challenging three evenings of Bible study. All the details on how this event will run and how to sign up are on the Castle Hill website: <https://warwickbaptists.org.uk/deeper>.



## CREATION CARE

Creation Care is a new scheme to help households improve their care of God's creation. It has a similar structure to Eco Church, with Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Households can register and work through an online questionnaire covering each of the seven areas. (Click on the Household tab to register, then the questions can be seen by clicking on Update Answers.) Working through the questions is a great way to show up areas for a household to discuss and act on. Find out more and register here. <https://creationcare.org.uk/>



**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Helen Black, Ellie Booth, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Sheila Freeman, John Hosiene, Mandeep Madar, Gwen & Paul Shilton.

**PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:** Maureen White, Leslie Fellows.

# ***FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES***

***–Face-to-face congregational services have been suspended for the time being during the third lockdown–***

We are live streaming our 10.30am Sunday Agape Service each week, which is then uploaded to YouTube

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday**

	<b>10.30am</b> <b>Sunday Worship online only</b>	
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**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Lent 5**

	<b>10.30am</b> <b>Sunday Worship online only</b>	
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**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday**

	<b>10.30am</b> <b>Sunday Worship online only</b>	
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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday**

	<b>10.30am</b> <b>Sunday Worship online only</b>	
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