



Weekly Newsletter

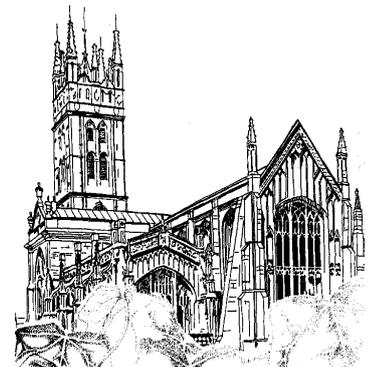
WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER. At the start of January the Westminster Parliament has placed England into a third lockdown. For the time being our weekly Sunday Agape Service will be live streamed on Facebook and then uploaded onto YouTube. All other activities are also suspended in line with the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

Twitter @StMarysWarwick and @ChoirsofWarwick

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

YouTube

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

SERVICES

10th January 2021 Baptism of Christ

10.30am

Agape Service

on Facebook & YouTube

Celebrant & Preacher: Alycia Timmis
Anthem: *In the bleak midwinter* Holst
Anthem: *Litany to the Holy Spirit* Hurford
Hymn: *We have a gospel to proclaim*
Organ Voluntary: *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (BWV 684)* J.S. Bach

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

NOTICES

THE VICAR WRITES IN LOCKDOWN: “As we enter 2021 we have been placed into our third lockdown of the coronavirus pandemic. However, as we face similar challenges to previous lockdowns there are also some significant differences. It’s clear from news bulletins, newspapers and social media that, as before, our hospitals are facing enormous pressures because of COVID-19. But this time these additional burdens come at their most challenging time of the year.

Furthermore, there are also new variants of the virus which are much more easily transmissible. Not only does that mean previous strategies need to be even more rigorously adhered to (*Hands, Face, Space*) but also there are as yet unanswered questions about whether existing risk assessments need to be



thoroughly upgraded. Given the extremely serious nature of the new threat, and in consultation with the Churchwardens on New Year's Day, we decided to put people's welfare and wellbeing first and curtail our face-to-face activities inside St Mary's and move some things online. Since that decision we've had the government's *Stay at Home* message, broadcasts by the Prime Minister and the near unanimous vote for lockdown in parliament, as well as the closure of schools. Clearly this is not what anyone wishes but we are where we are and it is evidently what is needed

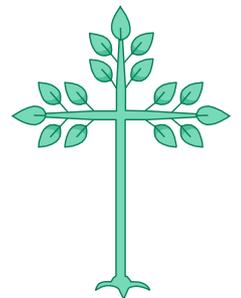


at this time. Sadly this involves curbing our choral rehearsals and services for the time being. Standing Committee met last Wednesday, affirmed this approach and will be putting a formal proposition to PCC asking for the Bishop of Coventry's permission to move worship online for an extended period. Naturally we shall be keeping this under review but, having said that, the fact that the Westminster parliament has made provision for lockdown to last until the end of March indicates how serious and difficult the

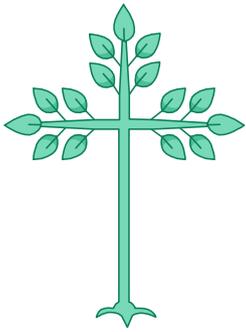
coming weeks and months could be. Please be assured of my prayers for the whole of the St Mary's community and our wider locality at this time. I am available to talk to on the phone (01926 492909) if you want to discuss any worries, concerns or pastoral issues. Of course, there is some very positive news about the arrival of vaccines to tackle the virus. One of our priorities at St Mary's is to ensure that we get people to that point where they're able to safely receive an inoculation in good health."

Keep well and stay safe – Vaughan

JOURNEYING ON (1) This Sunday we say farewell to our curate Alycia Timmis and Mark and Miles. Sadly we cannot do that in the congregational way that we had planned but they leave St Mary's with our blessings, good wishes and deep friendship. Alycia is taking up a new appointment as Priest-in-Charge of the Northleach Benefice in Gloucestershire. She is due to be inducted into post by the Bishop of Gloucester on Sun 14th Feb but that will now be done via Zoom. We shall be making a presentation of our card and collection during today's Agape Service. We're enormously grateful for all that she's done in her time with us and will continue to keep Alycia and the family in our prayers they move to next stage in their vocational journey together.



JOURNEYING ON (2)



As Alycia prepares to move on it is fitting to report that Nick Edwards, a member of our congregation and our serving and lesson-reading teams, has been recommended to train for ordained ministry. This recommendation comes as part of a long process within our diocese and in the national church. Please keep Nick in your prayers, along with Elly and Etta, as they prepare for the next stage of their journey as well.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The PCC's Standing Committee met last Wednesday via Zoom to review several significant recent developments at St Mary's and to plan ahead. Changes due the pandemic have already been mentioned. Other matters discussed during a lengthy meeting included church finances which, whilst not as precipitous as once feared, remain in a parlous situation. Work continues on the Chapter House and North Porch roofs, and we're still looking to resolve the issues about road closures in order to erect the Tower scaffolding. It was good to get the audio improvements into church ahead of our live streaming our Christmas services – thanks to hard work by Treehouse Media, Alan Faulkner and John Adams. We hope to move soon onto the next phase which will include mounted cameras.

CAMPAIGN 2023 LAUNCHED

A campaign has been launched to raise £3million to safeguard the future of St Mary's ahead of its 900th anniversary in 2023.



Campaign 2023 aims to raise £2million to fund urgent repairs to the landmark tower to avoid its closure, and a further £1million to build an endowment fund to ensure the fabric, music and ministry of St Mary's for the next millennium. To find out more, please

visit the Campaign 2023 website at www.stmaryscampaign2023.org.uk where online donations can also be made.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The virtual Christmas Tree Festival has now drawn to a close. Huge thanks go to Tony and Helen Fitzpatrick, who organised the online event, gathering photos and messages from previous exhibitors, setting up and running the website, and keeping up awareness with daily Facebook posts. It was a great success, with nearly 3000 visits to the website and many more views and likes on Facebook, and a very welcome substitute for the real thing.

CULTURE RECOVERY FUND AWARDS

We were thrilled to hear we have received Heritage Stimulus funding thanks to DCMS, Historic England, CofE Church Care and the government's Culture Recovery Fund. We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £25,000 from the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage At Risk fund to mend the leak in the nave roof and one of £108,160 from the Major Works Fund (via the CofE) to tackle serious water ingress problems from both above and below ground around the WCs, side entrance and historic chapter house. The nave roof re-leading has already been completed, and the other project is well under way. This work involves some

scaffolding on the roofs above the north porch and is expected to take several months.

Over recent weeks and months we have been applying for various grants to support us financially. Most grants are awarded for specific purposes and measured against stringent criteria and our two essential fabric projects clearly hit the mark. Without the funding we would not have been able to contemplate starting the repair work. Let's hope for similar success with future applications.

21st CENTURY GIVING

As restrictions continue into the new year, 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.

2021 NUMBERED ENVELOPES

There are now very few people giving weekly by using the numbered envelopes scheme and it is no longer economical to buy them in. If you are unable to switch to a standing order and would like to continue with the envelope scheme, please contact Mary Adams on om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS QUIZZERS

Congratulations to the prize winners in our Christmas carol quiz. The victors were: 1st place - Jill Duffy (with bonus point for tie-break answer), 2nd place - Kirsteen and Rebecca Robson, 3rd place - the Pittarello family. You will soon receive your prizes via carrier pigeon. The answers are here: http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk/images/uploads/Christmas_Quiz_2020_answers.pdf. Many thanks to Godfrey Hill for devising the quiz and donating the prizes.

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."



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

Monday 18th to 25th January is Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is with great regret that we are unable to hold a United Service or our planned daily walks, but please join us from home in praying for the members and ministry of the churches listed each day, and for unity amongst all the churches. The CTW prayer sheet can be downloaded from http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk/images/uploads/CTW_Christian_Unity_Prayer_Week_2021.pdf. The document contains a link to further resources for the week.

Healing on the Street (HOTS) is still unable to operate as before but they would be very pleased to hear of people who need prayer.

Contact: warwickhots@gmail.com

REST IN PEACE

We were so sorry to hear the news about the recent death of Jean Liggins over the Christmas period. She was a loyal and active member of St Mary's Church and many community organizations. Her funeral will be on 29th January at 12 noon but because of the current COVID-19 guidelines will be for close family and friends (followed by a burial in Barford). As we go to press there is still no confirmation about when in January Peter Stubbs' funeral will be. Meanwhile please keep Jean and Peter in your prayers along with their family and friends.

RITA RAY WRITES:

"I had so many cards, letters, phone calls, flowers etc. during Albert's illness and would like to thank everyone. He died peacefully at home and I was with him. It was a comfort to both me and my family that so many people remembered him, and very much appreciated."

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

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED: Gillian Gould, Jean Liggins, Albert Ray, Peter Stubbs



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 17th January - Epiphany 2

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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Sunday 24th January - Epiphany 3

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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Sunday 31st January - Epiphany 4

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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Parish Office: (01926) 403940 option 1 (answerphone only)
Mary Adams, Operations Manager - om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk