



Weekly Newsletter

13th September 2020 Patronal Festival (Trinity 14)

WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER. St Mary's has begun to reopen and restart services in church following the pandemic lockdown. At present this includes socially-distanced private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-3pm, Choral Evensong on Wednesdays at 5.30pm, and Sunday Worship at 10.30am. Please remain aware that face masks are mandatory for all public worship.

Our Sunday service is presently a simple liturgy with prayers, readings, pre-recorded music and a sermon which is based around the Church of England's *Daily Prayer* and lasts about 30 minutes. We aim to live stream it on *Facebook* and upload it to our *YouTube* channel afterwards. Please note that congregational singing remains prohibited at the moment, as does serving coffee after our worship. We are also required to record worshippers' names and a phone number for tracking and tracing purposes.



St Mary's continues 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](https://twitter.com/StMarysWarwick) and [@ChoirsofWarwick](https://twitter.com/ChoirsofWarwick)

Facebook [@StMarysWarwick](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwick) and [St Mary's Warwick Community](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwickCommunity)

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

SERVICES

10.30am

Sunday Eucharist (Common Worship)
Boys' & Men's Voices

Officiant:	Alycia Timmis
Preacher:	Vaughan Roberts
Reader:	Genesis 50: 15-21 - Nick Edwards
Reader:	Matthew 18: 21-35 - Gail Guest
Setting:	<i>Communion Service in F Darke</i>
Intercessor:	Kirsteen Robson
Anthem:	<i>Ave Maria Parsons</i>
Organ Voluntary:	<i>Toccata from Symphony no. 5 Widor</i>

NOTICES

IN CHURCH TODAY

This Sunday we celebrate St Mary's Patronal Festival and our act of worship is a Sunday Eucharist, which will be our first service of Holy Communion since the start of lockdown in March. Yet, having said that, our service is still not a return to 'normal'. In accordance with Church of England guidelines, we will be offering communion in one kind (bread) and our clergy will be coming to where you are seated and dropping the wafer into people's palms to ensure there's no physical contact with hands. Please remain standing to receive the bread and when you have done so, be seated and replace your mask. Please cross your arms on your chest if you would prefer a (non-tactile) blessing.



AND ONLINE

Longstanding viewers of broadcast services from St Mary's may recall that during lockdown we used the Church of England's Agape Service. In essence, this is a shared meal which recalls the many and various feasts, banquets and homely food that Jesus shared on his travels as a sign of God's kingdom. These meals came to a high point in the Last Supper, which we continue to celebrate in the Eucharist. If you are watching online and would like to share in the service through your own agape moment using some suitable food and drink then you are welcome to do so. Something to fit in with a theme of 'normal' or 'normality' would be appropriate.

TIME MOVES ON (1)

It is a joy and a sadness to announce that our curate, Alycia Timmis, has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Northleach Benefice in the Diocese of Gloucester. We offer our congratulations and best wishes on this appointment, as well as rejoicing in all that she has done in her time at St Mary's. Alycia, Mark and Miles won't be leaving until Christmas, so we will have the pleasure of their company for a few more months yet.

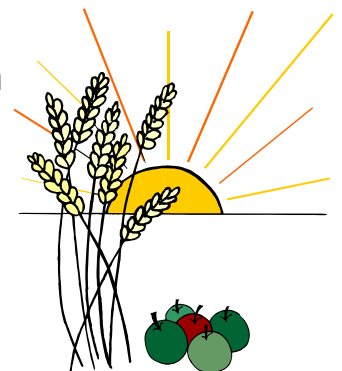


TIME MOVES ON (2)

We are now in the 'Creation Season' which is increasingly observed by churches of many denominations from 1st Sept through to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (4th Oct). So we have adapted our liturgy to this new pattern. We used the seasonal version of Sunday Worship last week and will again next Sunday (20th), whilst this Sunday and on 27th we see the restart of our Sunday Eucharist (for Patronal and Harvest Festivals, respectively). These services will continue to be live streamed on Facebook and be available through YouTube and A Church Near You. It has also been wonderful to welcome back members of St Mary's Choir and our music team for these acts of worship and for Choral Evensong on Wednesdays.

HARVEST LUNCH

Sadly, because of the Westminster Government's new ban on social gatherings of more than six people, we have had to cancel our bring-your-own harvest picnic in The Rectory garden on Sunday 27th September after our 10.30am service. Here's hoping for better harvest celebrations in 2021.



THE VICAR WRITES:

"As some people may know I have been in quarantine for the last two Sundays following my return from France on annual leave. I have continued to work from home with Zoom meetings, taking calls and answering emails. I'm extremely grateful to Alycia for taking services during my enforced absence and to everyone else who has kept St Mary's open and our shared ministry on track."

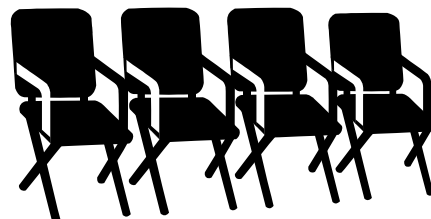
LOOKING AHEAD ...



...October will also be a challenging month with several civic services (Warwick Words, Regimental Service, High Sheriff's Legal Service). Depending on how things go this month, we also hope to restart the Wednesday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion, and we will also keep under review the possibility of resuming other services of Evensong and Holy Communion.

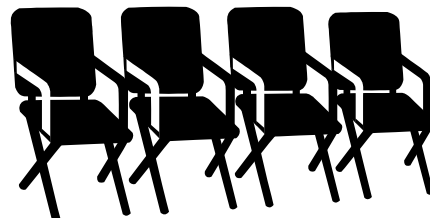
STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The PCC's Standing Committee had its latest scheduled meeting this week and received updates on finances, fabric and other aspects of St Mary's Ministry. Unsurprisingly we are running a significant deficit in our accounts and face further challenges, particularly in November and December. We have a number of grant applications pending, which would provide crucial help if any come through later this month. We are keeping the range of services, seating capacity and other matters under constant review. In the light of the current situation we have taken the unhappy decision not to have a Christmas Tree Festival this year but to aim to have one again in 2021.



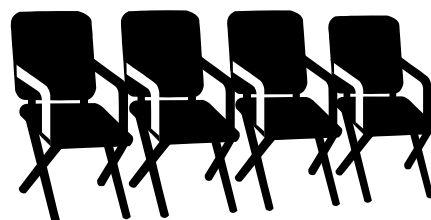
CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The next PCC meeting will be via Zoom on 7th Oct at 7.30pm. When the 2020 dates for Church Council were fixed in 2019, PCC agreed not to have a meeting in July because it was often difficult to be quorate during that holiday period. This means it is a while since we've had Church Council. During that time the PCC's Standing Committee has continued to have scheduled meetings plus an emergency meeting to address some of the difficult challenges during the pandemic. The minutes of those three meetings have been circulated to PCC members and if there are any matters that members wish to raise ahead of the next meeting, please feel free to contact the Standing Committee officers.



DELAYED ANNUAL MEETING

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in church on Sunday 20th September following our Sunday Worship. A very limited number of printed copies of the accounts and annual reports will be available from Sunday 6th. In the meantime, if you would like copies via email please let the Vicar or PCC Secretary (Vicky Bartholomew vickybartholomew@btinternet.com) know.



DEANERY SYNOD

St Mary's can elect three members of our congregation to represent us at Deanery Synod, which covers all the Anglican churches in Warwick and Leamington. There are presently two vacancies here and our reps make an important contribution to the life of our Deanery through its synod. If you'd like to know more, please speak to Gill James (synod rep) or to Vaughan.

I WILL WORSHIP

It was an almost indescribable joy to take part in our first choral Sunday worship last week and to see (and hear) the resumption of Wednesday Choral Evensong. St Augustine actually didn't say 'He who sings prays twice', but it is certainly a sentiment with which we can 'get on board'. Choirs have an important role in what (and how) they sing: to translate - even transcend - the written word and add a deeper layer of meaning and connection to texts, to enhance our worship of God. As we celebrate our Patronal Festival, and the first Eucharist at St Mary's in many months, we rejoice in the sacrament and God's presence with us, celebrated in word, act, and song. As the girls sang on Wednesday, 'They shall sing in the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.'

Director of Music, Oliver Hancock

NEWS HEADLINES

For several years Alice Pethick has been dealing with St Mary's press and media coverage on a voluntary basis but now feels this is the time to step back. We're enormously grateful to Alice for all that she's done on our behalf in this and many other ways. If you would be interested in taking this role on or to find out more, please speak to or email Vaughan (vaughan.roberts@btinternet.com)



21st CENTURY GIVING

Do remember that many of our income streams are predicted to be either very low or non-existent for the rest of this year. If you normally give cash either by envelope (numbered or not) or straight onto the collection plate please, please consider switching to regular giving direct from your bank account. If you have access to internet banking it is a simple matter to set up a standing order, weekly or (preferably) monthly.



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!

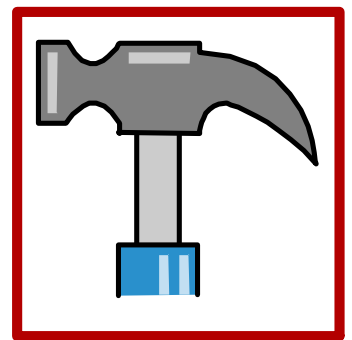
For more information please email our Operations Manager, Mary Adams, on om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk.

ORGAN TUNING

Having been sadly neglected since before lockdown, the organ is due to be treated to a much-needed visit by the tuners. Such is the amount of work to be done that two days are needed. As a result, the private prayer session on Monday 21st September has had to be cancelled.

THE FLOOD

St Mary's has a long history of problems with water getting where it shouldn't. Prior to lockdown we were closely monitoring a number of leaks, and the recent summer storms have revealed more items to add to this list. Sharp-eyed worshippers will have spotted the buckets by the lectern pillar, strategically placed to capture water from a new leak where the north transept roof meets the main nave roof. Our Operations Manager and architect have an application in process for a grant from the Heritage England At Risk Response Fund to cover the cost of this repair. Recently, the rain found its way in along the south wall of the Nave, resulting in sandstone slicks on the floor and water marks down the walls. The same downpour caused the north porch to flood from above and below simultaneously, and we have since had a recurrence of the roof leak. This confirms that not only do we have work to do on the roof but also that we need to improve the drainage and underground soakaway in the north-east corner of the church. All of these items require attention and will be dealt with in a priority order when the finances permit. It may be many months before we have the money to address all the items.



MORRELL'S MARATHON

After the cancellation of the real thing this spring, our organ scholar Lucy Morrell will be joining the virtual London Marathon on Sunday 4th October, pounding the pavements of the Warwick area alone whilst tracking her progress. She is raising money for the Friends of St Mary's Choir, and you can sponsor her at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lucy-morrell2>.

ADVENT IS COMING...

Mary Adams is investigating the possibility of buying a case of Real Advent Calendars from the Meaningful Chocolate Company. Each calendar comes with a 24-page Christmas illustrated story-activity book and a palm oil free Fairtrade chocolate behind each door. They cost £3.99 each, and we need to order at least 18. Please let Mary know soon on om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk if you would like to order any - the suppliers are expecting to sell out quickly.



EXTENDED UNTIL 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Ecclesiastical Insurance Trust 130 promotion. If you take a new home insurance policy out with Ecclesiastical before 31st December 2020, they will donate £130 to the church. Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 or call 08007830130 and quote Trust130.



DAILY HOPE PHONELINE



It has been confirmed that the free national phone line to bring worship and prayer into people's homes will continue even though churches are opening once again. Daily Hope 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."

SEEKING A TREASURER

A few months ago Vaughan was elected chair of trustees for the *MODEM Hub for Leadership, Management & Ministry*. This is a national, ecumenical Christian network that encourages dialogue between individuals and organizations interested in how leadership, spirituality and ministry can aid the development of better disciples, community, society and our world. They are currently seeking a treasurer to join the trustee body so if you're interested or would like to find out more do speak to Vaughan (01926 492909) or email him on:

vaughan.roberts@btinternet.com

WANTED - BELLRINGERS

Warwick Bellringers (ringing at both St Mary's and St Nicholas') are keen to supplement our numbers by training new recruits. We have had to suspend bellringing for the time being but if you think you would like to pursue a new hobby when it restarts, please contact Simon Rogers (07498363304 or simon.rogers17@ntlworld.com).



REST IN PEACE

We were very sad to hear the recent news about the death of George Mullis. George led intercessions at St Mary's and his parish church of St Alphege, Solihull, and was a great character. His funeral will be in Solihull and more details will follow. Please keep him, his daughter Carol and his family and friends in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Helen Black, Ellie Booth, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Sheila Freeman, Denise Godfrey, Paul Haynes, John Hosiene, Frances Humphreys, Mandeep Madar, Donald McCall, Gwen & Paul Shilton, Joanne Tubb.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

George Mullis, Dave Searson

THIS WEEK: Beginning 13th September

Wednesday 16 th	5.30pm	Choral Evensong
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FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

Some public worship has restarted at St Mary's with a shortened service each Sunday at 10.30am (also available online) and Choral Evensong on Wednesdays at 5.30pm

Sunday 20th September - Trinity 15

	10.30am Sunday Worship	
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Sunday 27th September - Harvest Festival

	10.30am Sunday Eucharist	
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Sunday 4th October - Trinity 17

	10.30am Sunday Eucharist	3.00pm Regimental Service
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Sunday 11th October -

	10.30am Sunday Worship for Warwick Words History Festival	
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