



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

Twitter @StMarysWarwick and @ChoirsofWarwick

Facebook @StMarysWarwick and St Mary's Warwick Community

YouTube

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

SERVICES

21st February 2021

Lent 1

10.30am Agape Service on Facebook & YouTube

Officiant & Preacher: Vaughan Roberts
Anthem: *View me, Lord Wood*
Anthem: *Sicut cervus* Palestrina
Hymn: Forty days and forty nights (NEH 67)
Organ Voluntary: *Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darein* (BWV 741) J. S. Bach

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

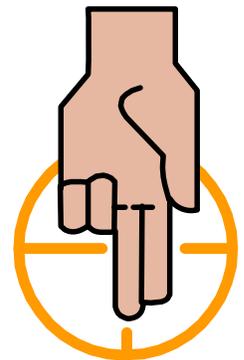
NOTICES

A SEASON OF CHANGE

Last week was a busy one online for St Mary's. Not only was there our regular live streamed Sunday Agape service but we also had a penitential Ash Wednesday service from church and on Sunday afternoon our former curate Alycia Timmis was licensed as Priest in Charge of the Northleach Benefice by the Bishop of Gloucester at 2.30pm. Sadly, the live link didn't work at the time but folk from St Mary's can catch up with the service here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5uv6e_NNac&t=0s

All services from St Mary's are available on our Facebook and YouTube social media. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.



A SEASON OF PENANCE



This Sunday is the first in the season of Lent. The readings will be Genesis 9: 8-17 (God's covenant with Noah) and Mark 1: 9-15 (Jesus' baptism and temptation). So 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 YouTube if you can.

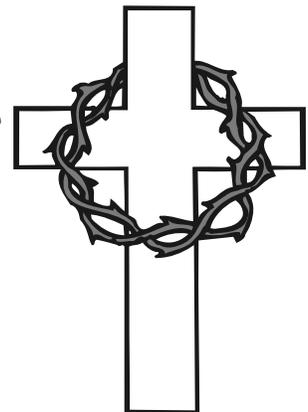
A SEASON OF UNCERTAINTY

This week the PCC's Standing Committee met to discuss how things might be managed as we look towards some form of reopening for our church, depending on advice from government, the Church of England nationally and other bodies (e.g. the Royal School of Church Music). We have drawn up a plan based on the National Health Service's chart of likelihood and consequence. This will give St Mary's 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.

| | | 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 |

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.



This gives us a flexible framework to assess the numerous and various challenges that reopening will make upon us in the coming weeks and months.

THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY

On the 22nd January, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into force. It breathes new life into global disarmament efforts and focuses attention on the catastrophic humanitarian impacts of the use and possession of nuclear weapons. In the House of Lords on the 21st January, Bishop Christopher encouraged the UK Government to engage constructively with the treaty, its signatories and their concerns. The Bishop's intervention follows a letter to The Observer from November 2020, which he co-drafted and signed along with 30 bishops, including both Archbishops. He also gave an interview to the World Council of Churches on the subject. Read more here:



<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/news/bishop-christopher-encourages-support-for-groundbreaking-treaty.php>

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. 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. Watch this space and thank you to everyone who has taken this grant and the project through!

CAMPAIGN 2023 LAUNCHED

Our 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.

FABRIC UPDATE

Work continues on the roofs of the north entrance and chapter house. Investigations revealed major issues with the construction of the roof above the song school stairs leading to significant problems with condensation. The roof has now been removed and reconstructed at an



additional cost of £36,000, taking the project cost to a total of over £170,000. Thankfully, we have been awarded an extension to our existing Culture Recovery Fund Major Works Fund grant to cover 80% of the total. We are obliged to fund the remaining 20%. Our Operations Manager has been in frequent contact with the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the CofE about the grant, and is immensely grateful for their administrative support. The Public Notice of the application for the faculty for the

roof reconstruction work was published last week - 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 clearance from Warwickshire County Council regarding road closures, 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.



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

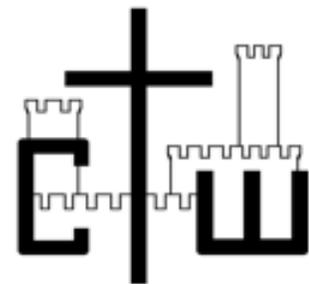
Manager, Mary Adams, on om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

HOTS (Healing on the Street) is unable to take place in the Market Place. Please contact warwickhots@gmail.com for prayer.

Prayer Breakfast – Sat 6th Mar 8.30 am by Zoom with prayer lead by St Paul's. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81900061993?pwd=L2ZSNE1VMFR4b0lzbUFPS05Ba3A4QT09>

Meeting ID: 819 0006 1993 Passcode: Qc8GQA



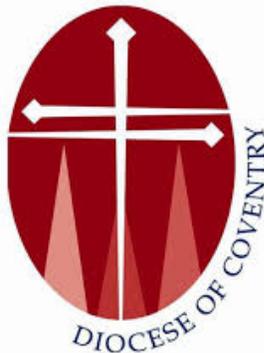
DEEPER 2021

Castle Hill Baptist church will be running this year's Deeper from 16th to 18th 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>.



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/>

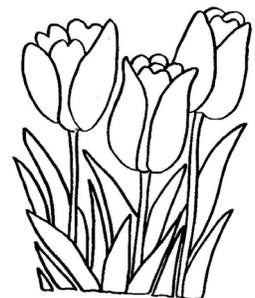
CREATION CARE

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/>

EASTER CARDS AND GIFTS

We have a range of Easter cards and gifts in the stock remaining after the church shop was mothballed last spring. Mary Adams is devising a plan to enable the stock to be sold. More next week!



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

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED: Margaret Morris, Brenda Evans, Maureen White.

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 28th February - Lent 2

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| | 10.30am Sunday Worship online only | |
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Sunday 7th March - Lent 3

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|--|---|--|
| | 10.30am Sunday Worship online only | |
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Sunday 14th March - Mothering Sunday

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|--|---|--|
| | 10.30am Sunday Worship online only | |
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Sunday 21st March - Lent 5

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|--|---|--|
| | 10.30am Sunday Worship online only | |
|--|---|--|

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