



Weekly Newsletter

22nd November 2020 Christ the King

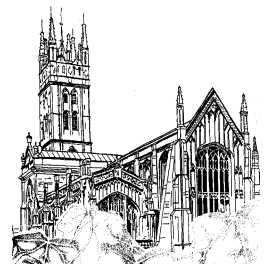
WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER. St Mary's had begun to reopen and restart services in church following the first pandemic lockdown but that has been put on hold as we entered a further month's lockdown on 5th November.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

We are continuing to monitor further guidance from the government and the Church of England but in the meantime we will continue with socially-distanced private prayer on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm.

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)

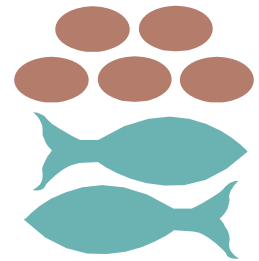
Facebook [@StMarysWarwick](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwick) and [St Mary's Warwick Community](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwickCommunity)

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

NOTICES

THIS SUNDAY

We have resumed our Agape services which we celebrated during the first lockdown as we move through lockdown 2. This is based on Jesus' meals with those he encountered during his ministry and will be livestreamed from St Mary's over the next two Sundays. If you would like to share with us in our meal then we suggest some food that reminds you of Jesus' teaching about the Son of Man separating the sheep from the goats (Mt 25: 31-46). We will be using fruit cake and grape juice.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

It is beginning to feel a bit like Christmas, and the St Mary's "Virtual Christmas Tree Festival" will start at the end of next week!!! A big poster will shortly be going up outside Church and there will be posts on social media which you can share. The Festival will last until Twelfth Night and in next week's Newsletter we will share contact details of the specially created website and Facebook page. In the meantime, we have some really bright and cheerful A4 window bills and it would be brilliant if you could display them for us. If you can help, please give us a call - 497613.

Many thanks, Helen and Tony

CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE

We will also be celebrating our Christmas Eve Crib Service online this year.



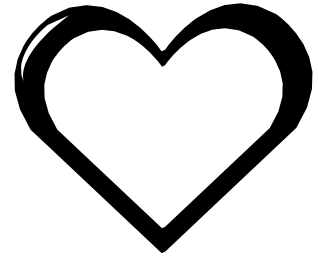
Mandy Roberts rashly volunteered to organise the service in 2019 and writes: "This year, because of Covid19, we are unable to have a nativity service on Christmas Eve at St Mary's. Instead, we have written a nativity service that we will premiere at 4pm on Christmas Eve online on Facebook and YouTube. Just like our normal service, anyone can be involved. There are many parts available so please do dress up and create a short video, send it to

me, and you will be included in the online service. More details on St Mary's Facebook page or from me. All are welcome, whatever age you are (including adults) and wherever you live. We know our on-line congregation comes from all over the world. Let's come together to tell the Christmas Story. We have the St Mary's Nativity Costumes here at The Rectory. Do give me a call if you would like to borrow something."

Mandy Roberts 07540 887375

TAKING CARE

Thank you to Nick Edwards who organised a Zoom meeting on Thursday evening for our Pastoral Care Team and for all members of the team who have been continuing to keep a watchful eye on St Mary's folks during the challenging months of 2020. Your care is greatly appreciated.



THE WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ...

... For Road Traffic Victims was streamed online last Sunday and can be viewed here: https://www.facebook.com/WarwickshirePCC/live_videos/
This was a very moving, team effort between the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner's office, local emergency services, St Mary's Church, and the national charity *Roadpeace*. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Since March, we've all been learning how to worship, pray and develop as a church community in very different ways. Our online worship has been a new and challenging development, and it's wonderful to know that so many people from around the world are now part of the extended St Mary's community. It has also meant that, even in lockdowns, St Mary's can continue to have some presence in our homes. We believe that this way of worshipping will be integral to St Mary's for the foreseeable future, enhancing our reach to people who can't get to church even in less restricted times. So far everything has been done with an iPhone. We are exploring an investment in equipment to improve audio and visual quality, in addition to enabling a range of camera views and additional content, such as being able to have a split screen showing the words of the service. Alan Faulkner and Mandy Roberts have agreed to lead on co-ordinating this so that we can feed back information to the standing committee and PCC.

Our aim is for our online congregation to feel as engaged in our services as possible. We would greatly value any thoughts or comments you may have on how we could achieve this. Please forward your feedback by Wednesday 18th November by email to pcc@stmaryswarwick.org.uk or online here:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13143/page/64834/view/>

You may like to consider the following questions

- If money was not a constraint, what would you want from a live streaming service and why?
- What would you want as a minimum from a live streaming service and why?
- Any other comments or suggestions e.g. access to expertise or funding?

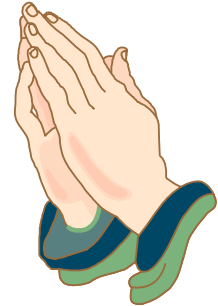
Mandy Roberts & Alan Faulkner

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Despite the various restrictions reimposed by the Westminster Government, it's very good that music exams have been able to continue. We're delighted to congratulate two choristers for recent successes: Joseph Webster on passing Performance Grade 1 Singing with merit, and Emily-Rose Noble on achieving Performance Grade 6 with distinction. Very well done to both!

OPEN FOR PRAYER

We have been reviewing our pattern of opening for individual prayer during the lockdown. In particular, how much St Mary's is used and how much capacity we have to staff it with our volunteers as we move deeper into winter with fewer people are coming into church. We have decided that from the 23rd November we will just open on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm, and review this as circumstances change nationally and locally.



CULTURE RECOVERY FUND AWARDS

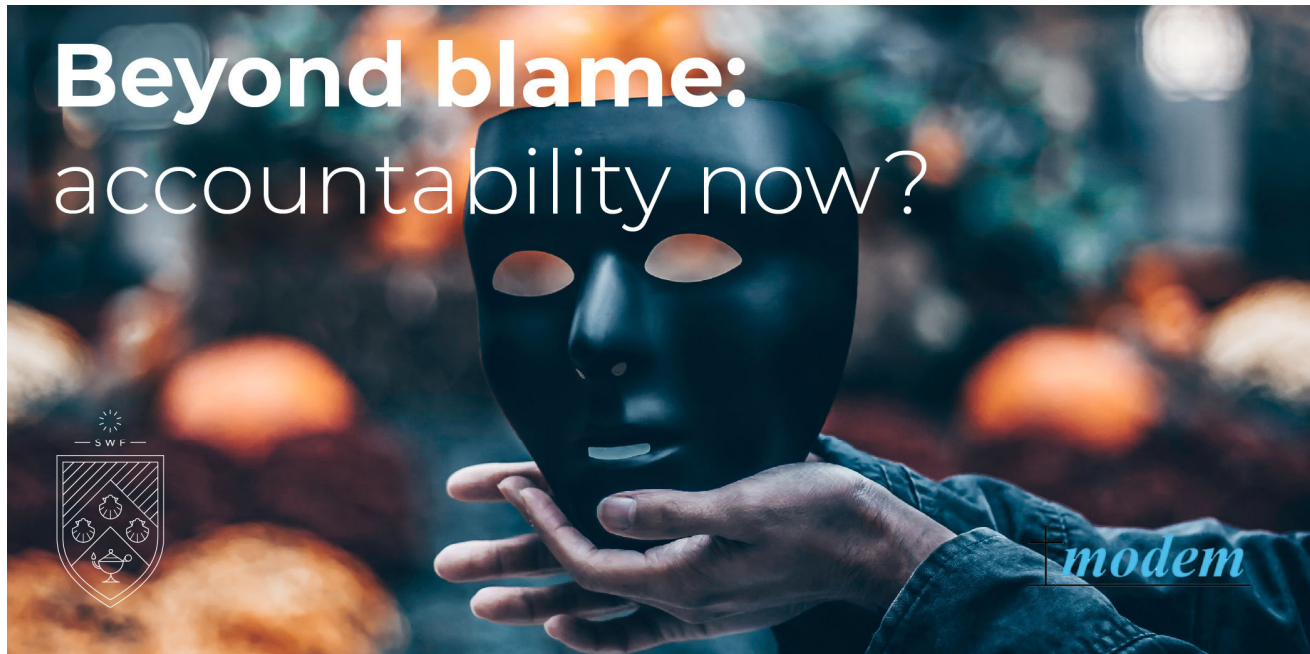
We were thrilled to hear we have received Heritage Stimulus funding thanks to DCMS, Historic England, CofE Church Care and the government's Culture Recovery Fund. Despite having known about the awards for some time, we were only permitted to announce them last week. We are delighted to have been awarded 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 started this week. 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.

Beyond Blame: Accountability Now

Bookings are now open for this fascinating online conference organised by the *MODEM Hub for Leadership, Management & Ministry* and the *Susanna Wesley Foundation*, which will take place on Tuesday, 1st December. There



is understandable scepticism that the social and political structures that affect everyday life can be held to account. It is not difficult to find poor performance that hasn't been challenged, systemic problems that are repeatedly investigated without real change and public policy that lets down those most in need. This day conference will look head on at the challenges of accountability whilst opening up our own work to the same questions. Three people in positions of being held to account and holding others to account will be asked to open up about the challenges they face, including: Christine Allen (Director of CAFOD), Vic Rayner (Executive Director of the National Care Forum), Marvin Rees (Mayor of Bristol), Helen Cameron (Regent's Park College, Oxford) with a closing reflection by Mike Long (Notting Hill Methodist Church) linking the day's presentations to his experience of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Book on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/modem-conference-2020-beyond-blame-accountability-now-tickets-126102498969>

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD DONATIONS

A congregation member has suggested that, as this Christmas is going to be a very different, and probably challenging, experience for churches and Christians this year, members of St Mary's may consider making donations to the church in lieu of cards to each other. If you would like to take part, please either give your donations (which can be Gift Aided) to Mary Adams or email her (om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk) for bank details.

Please do not put your money in the normal collection or we will not be able to gauge the success of the idea.



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.

KNITTED ANGELS FOR CTW

Churches Together plan to hold a market stall on Sat 19th Dec at which they will sell inexpensive ornamental cribs as an evangelistic outreach, with Christmas music playing. To enhance the scene, they will be giving away knitted angels to children, and they are asking for help to make them. There are many patterns available but if you would like a simple one please email admin@stmaryswarwick.org.uk and Glynis will forward the pattern recommended by CTW. For more information, or for patterns for other small novelty Christmas gift items for CTW to give away to local children, please email Val Brant at val19472@outlook.com

SURPLUS INKS

The Parish Office has surplus genuine Canon inks to sell. Please email admin@stmaryswarwick.org.uk if you would like any of 551 XL in yellow, black and magenta, 550 XL PGBK, CLI-8BK, or PG-40 black.

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."



PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Helen Black, Ellie Booth, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Sheila Freeman, Gillian Gould, Paul Haynes, John Hosiene, Frances Humphreys, Mandeep Madar, Gwen & Paul Shilton.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

—This will be updated when public worship resumes—

See our social media sites for details of streamed services

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