



Weekly Newsletter

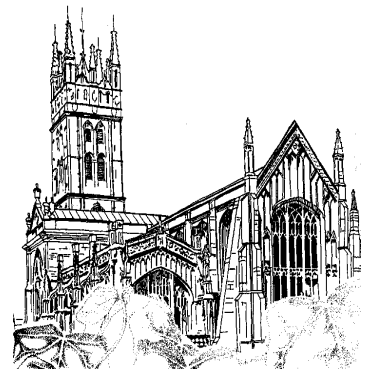
WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER. At the start of January the Westminster Parliament has placed England into a third lockdown. For the time being our weekly Sunday Agape Service will be live streamed on Facebook and then uploaded onto YouTube. All other activities are also suspended in line with the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

24th January 2021
Epiphany 3

10.30am

Agape Service

on Facebook & YouTube

Officiant & Preacher: Vaughan Roberts
Anthem: *Tribus miraculis* (Antiphon for Epiphany; Palestrina)
Anthem: *Bethlehem Down* (Blunt; Warlock)
Hymn: *Happy are they* NEH 369
Organ Voluntary: *Fugue (in memoriam Maurice Duruflé)* Whiteley

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

NOTICES

THIS SUNDAY

We are continuing with our Sunday Worship Agape Services which are available (past and present) online.

Last Monday saw the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which concludes tomorrow so please continue to pray for the whole body of Christ in these challenging times. More information can be found on the national Churches Together website via this link or copy it in to your browser

<https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WPCU-2021-English-pamphlet-Final.pdf.pagespeed.ce.SnR5lgw9dp.pdf>



churches
together

IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

LOCAL ADVICE FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

We are keeping a close eye on guidelines and recommendations, and this week our Operations Manager attended a COVID Secure - Places of Worship information webinar hosted by the County Council. The panel included local authority staff from public health, trading standards, Warwickshire Police, Fire and Rescue and the Towns Team. The council is extremely concerned about the new variants and offered the following advice for Places of Worship whenever they are ready to open.

- Places of Worship should be led by the guidelines but not compelled by them - each should operate within limits of risk with which they are comfortable.
- Social distancing is of paramount importance, and because of the transmissibility of the new variants and the data on their spread in Warwickshire, WCC is recommending 3m distancing wherever possible, with an absolute minimum of 2m.
- Places of Worship have responsibility for ensuring that worshippers are kept safe and maintain their distance. Inside the building, distance has to be maintained when entering and leaving as well as during the worship itself. Outside, we have to ensure that our worshippers are not seen “to gather”. This requires us to control queuing prior to entry and also ensure that our worshippers disperse rapidly after services.
- Everyone who is not exempt must wear a face covering at all times, but this should not lead to a relaxation of distancing.
- Thorough cleaning should be done after each and every use of the building.



Most churches (including St Mary's) are choosing to remain closed at this time to support the government's *Stay at Home* message.

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.

FABRIC UPDATE

Despite the cold weather, work has continued apace on the roofs of the north entrance and chapter house. Investigations have revealed major issues with the construction of the roof above the song school stairs leading to significant problems with condensation. The roof now has to be removed and reconstructed at an additional cost of £36,000, taking the project cost to a total of over £170,000. Thankfully, we are highly optimistic of 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 erection of the tower scaffolding awaits clearance from Warwickshire County Council regarding road closures, an issue which is proving to be hard to resolve, given the narrowness of the road and Warwick's convoluted one-way systems. In the meantime, the Public Notice of the restoration work on the tower has been published - a legal requirement before the Chancellor of the diocese may grant the faculty to allow the works to take place. For more information, see the home page of our website.



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.

ST MARY'S STANDING COMMITTEE

The Church Council's Standing Committee met this week to begin the process of looking at how we might start to open the church more fully when the pandemic is more under control and people are able to move more freely. This is a hugely complex task and we will keep everyone updated as circumstances change and progress is made.



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.

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."



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY

Friends of the Holy Land, a Christian Charity, is seeking an Office Administrator. This salaried position is important for future growth and directly supports the Office Manager. Duties include maintaining the database, responding to enquiries, managing post/emails and sending out materials. The successful candidate will have good verbal and written communication skills, a strong ability to multi-task and be comfortable with the use of IT (particularly MS Office). The hours/days are negotiable - min. 20 hrs per week Mon-Fri. In the current pandemic, some work can be done at home. Normally, the work is conducted from the Kenilworth office. Please contact Jen Hill with your CV and covering letter by 25th Jan: office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

LEANING INTO LENT: Alone and together

The Diocese of Coventry has given a 'heads up' that it will be providing several resources for Lent 2021, which will include:

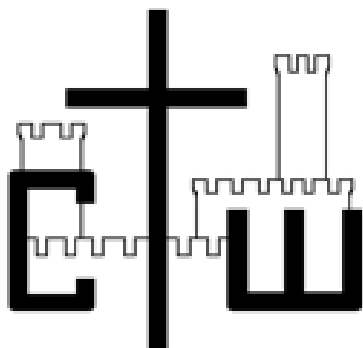


- *Journey into Prayer* - Five Wednesday evenings to reflect and rest with God in different ways. You can come to as many as you would like. This is open to clergy and lay people.
- *Retreat day* - Time to relax and be nourished.
- *Morning Prayer* - Offered by Coventry Cathedral and is open to all.
- *Dial a service* - For those without computer access, this gives the opportunity to hear a prayer, hymn and thought for the week.
- *Stations of the Cross* - A resource including images, reflections and activities that can be used in a multitude of ways for mission, personal prayer and activities at home.
- *Growing Faith Workshop* - Spotlighting simple easy to use and adaptable ideas thinking particularly around children but not limited to them.
- *Resources to use* - A short selection of books, videos and ideas to help reduce the amount of searching you may normally do.

Watch this space and the Diocesan website for further details.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

Monday 18th to 25th January is the 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

CALL TO PRAYER

National Ecumenical Officers of Churches Together in England Member Churches and other representatives of Churches in Britain and Ireland have issued a call to prayer focussing on five key areas:

- Pray for all the NHS staff for their own safety, energy and peace in dealing with each and every patient.
- Pray for those in hospital leadership, for wisdom and for good decisions to give the best outcomes for patients.
- Pray for patients; for healing, for peace and ultimately to fight this disease and get home and pray for their relatives who feel helpless.
- Pray for the vaccine, that it will work and is working against this latest strain of Covid-19.
- Pray for a reprieve and an end to Covid-19.

FAIR TAX SEMINAR

You are invited to this seminar to be held on Monday 25th January at 7pm on ZOOM. Attendance is free of charge but please register to get your entry details by emailing john.sheldon@uwclub.net.

It is organised by The Justice & Peace Group of Warwick Roman Catholics (St Mary Immaculate & St Charles Borromeo), along with the Elders of Warwick Quakers.

With an estimated £7bn of corporation tax receipts still going astray as a result of profit shifting alone, this session will explore how we can stand up for fair tax conduct. Over 60 UK businesses and 9 local councils support this growing movement. Mary Patel, Networks Manager at Fair Tax Mark, will outline the current situation and show how we in Warwick, or elsewhere, can have a meaningful influence.

SEEKING SUPPORT

Some will know that Graham Coles, the Vicar of Cubbington, was diagnosed with cancer in 2001, but was given the all clear in 2012. Sadly, before Christmas, he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer on his tongue. This is growing extremely rapidly and it has already started to spread. Due to the devastating impact of Covid-19, there is a shortage of NHS hospital beds. His family are therefore seeking to raise funds for a private operation and you can read more here:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-rev-graham-get-emergency-cancer-surgery?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_l_ico+share-sheet

Please keep Graham, his family, and the church community at Cubbington in your prayers.

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: Brenda Evans, Gillian Gould, Jean Liggins, Margaret Morris, 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 31st January - Epiphany 4

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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Sunday 7th February - 2nd before Lent

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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Sunday 14th February - Sunday before Lent

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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