



# Weekly Newsletter

## 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Advent 1

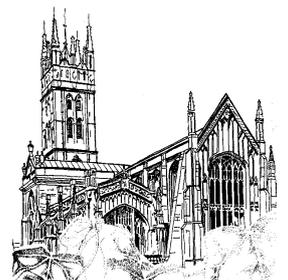
**WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.** St Mary's had begun to reopen and restart services in church following the first pandemic lockdown but that has been put on hold as we entered a further month's lockdown on 5<sup>th</sup> November.



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](http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk)

**Twitter** [@StMarysWarwick](https://twitter.com/StMarysWarwick) and [@ChoirsofWarwick](https://twitter.com/ChoirsofWarwick)

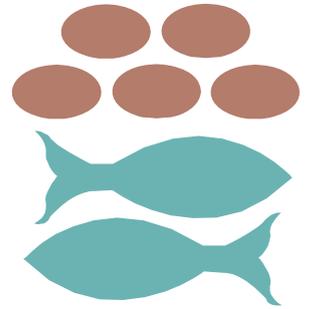
**Facebook** [@StMarysWarwick](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwick) and [St Mary's Warwick Community](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwickCommunity)

**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 towards the end of lockdown 2. This worship is based on Jesus' meals with those he encountered during his ministry. If you would like to share with us in our meal then we suggest some food that reminds you of Jesus' teaching about prevailing during a time of trial (Mk 13: 24-37). We will be using Welsh cakes and grape juice.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Today is Advent Sunday when the Church begins its seasonal preparations for Christmas, as well as starting the new liturgical year. We also enter a new year on our lectionary as well, when the focus of our Gospel readings moves from Matthew to Mark. We would usually be having our candlelit Advent Carol Service but because of lockdown that is not possible. However, next Sunday's worship will be a livestreamed service of Advent music, readings and carols at 5.30pm on Facebook so do join us. Please note there will be no morning service as our choir will be rehearsing in church. Sunday Worship in St Mary's resumes at 10.30am on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The St Mary's Virtual Christmas Tree Festival 2020 has now opened and we are delighted to have received 45 contributions! The links are below and we really hope that you will enjoy spending time feasting your eyes on the images and reading the festive messages. Please can each and every one of you share the links as widely as possible, and consider displaying one of our very festive window bills, specially designed for us by James Cooper Creative. The Festival will run until Twelfth Night and there is an opportunity, via the website, to make a contribution to St Mary's. Local shops, businesses and charities have had a tough year, so please consider supporting them when doing your Christmas shopping.

Website : [www.stmaryschristmas.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschristmas.org.uk)

Facebook : St Mary's Virtual Christmas Tree Festival 2020



## **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*

## **POSADA 2020-STYLE**

This year, our knitted holy family will of course be staying safely in their own bubble and not experiencing the hospitality of members of our congregations. Instead, they will be reminiscing about past Advent journeys around our neighbourhood in a virtual posada. You can see some of their favourite moments each day of Advent on our Facebook page, and the whole journey will be available at Christmas to download as an electronic scrapbook.



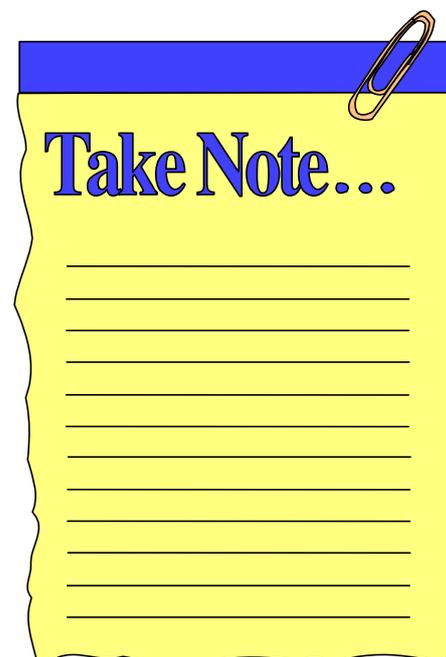
## **GOVERNMENT & FAITH COMMUNITIES**

Chris Edmonds writes: “Please encourage anyone you know to complete the questionnaire for the Independent Faith Engagement Review. There are some questions from 33 onwards which relate to faith schools, and it needs a strong response from the faith community. It takes 10/15 mins. You click on the link in section 4 to get to the online form:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>”

## **LAST CALL (1): 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 18<sup>th</sup> November by email to [pcc@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto: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*

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

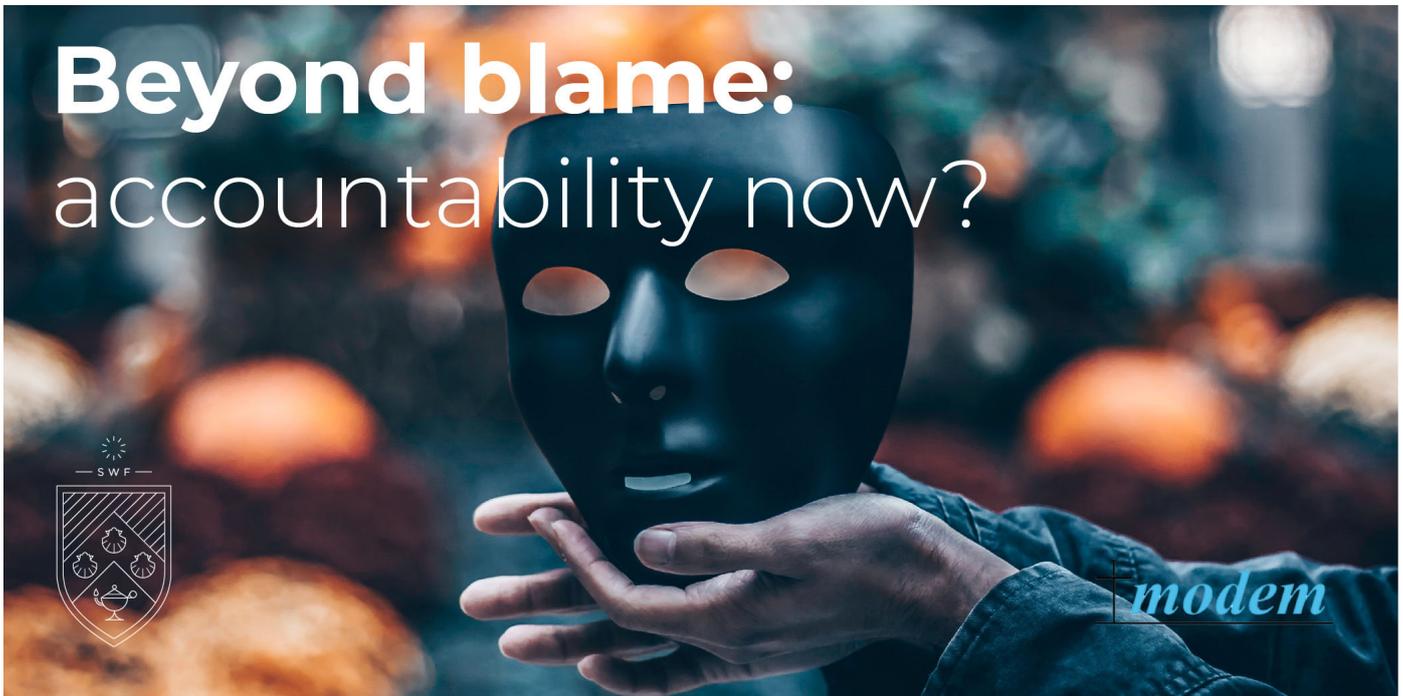


## WARWICK COVID RECOVERY PLAN

The Warwick Community Network held a Zoom meeting last Thursday with around 45 people from local charities, churches, councils and other groups to hear presentations from the County, District and Town Councils. The input was largely positive and explored how the different councils were responding to the pandemic. One striking comment came from Chris Elliot of the WDC, who noted that we won't be able to go back to the old normal, rather we have to go forward to a new future. And it was interesting to hear from Cllr Moira-Ann Grainger how a shared experience of COVID has brought some communities together. There will be a further meeting to follow up these presentations on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

## LAST CALL (2) 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 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020



Ecclesiastical Insurance Trust 130 promotion. If you take a new home insurance policy out with Ecclesiastical before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, they will donate £130 to the church. Find out more at

[www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://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](mailto: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.



## 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk).

## KNITTED ANGELS FOR CTW

Churches Together plan to hold a market stall on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:val19472@outlook.com)

## CTW PRAYER BREAKFAST

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am on Zoom. Prayers with a healthy breakfast. You will need an apple, a knife to cut it with, and a plate. Everyone welcome - you do not need to be a CTW regular. Please contact [claire@philipandclaireharris.uk](mailto:claire@philipandclaireharris.uk) for ID and password.

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](mailto:warwickhots@gmail.com)

## SURPLUS INKS

The Parish Office has surplus genuine Canon inks to sell. Please email [admin@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryswarwick.org.uk) if you would like CLI-8BK or PG-40, both 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."



## REST IN PEACE

We were sorry to learn about the recent deaths of Christine and Paul Haynes on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct and 17<sup>th</sup> Nov respectively. They were the grandparents of Luke Newman, who was confirmed at St Mary's and is a regular worshipper with us. Please keep Luke and all the family in your prayers at this challenging time.

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

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

## PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

Paul and Christine Haynes

# ***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](mailto:om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk)