



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

31st January 2021

Presentation of Christ

10.30am

Agape Service

on Facebook & YouTube

Officiant & Preacher: Vaughan Roberts
Anthem: *When to the temple Mary went* Eccard
Anthem: *Nunc dimittis in C* Stanford
Hymn: *O gladsome light*
Organ Voluntary: *Te splendor et virtus* Dupré

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

NOTICES

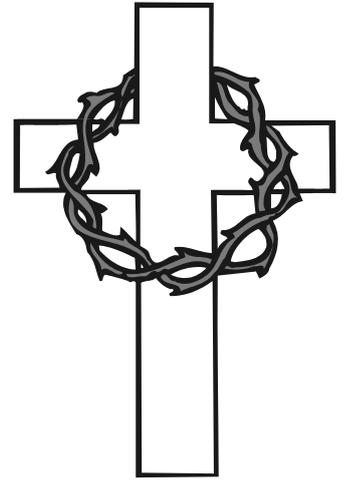
THIS SUNDAY ...

... we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus before God in the Jerusalem temple. This celebration is also known as Candlemas and it marks a significant transition from Christmas to Easter. The first Sunday in Lent is now only three weeks away and traditionally the Church's calendar has marked that change on this Sunday. So if you are joining us in sharing food and drink, something that marks an important transition in your life would be appropriate for today's service.



ASH WEDNESDAY ...

... falls on 17th February this year. We are planning to live stream a service from St Mary's at 7.30pm to mark the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. If you are joining us then you may wish to have some ash handy to use symbolically for this occasion. Traditionally last year's palm crosses are burnt to provide the ash (although this process can be quite tricky and time consuming) so other sources of ash will be acceptable. Join us online if you can.



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

St Mary's PCC met via Zoom last Wednesday. The lengthiest discussion was on our church's financial situation created in large part by the pandemic. We are clearly facing some significant challenges as we head through 2021, not least with how we re-open and how we repair our magnificent tower. The PCC's Standing Committee will be looking hard at what can be done to address these difficult issues in the weeks ahead. The PCC also approved a resolution to continue with live streamed services for the time being and have asked the Bishop of Coventry's permission to do this until 8th

March (subject to regular revision).

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 revealed major issues with the construction of the roof above the song school stairs leading to significant problems with condensation. The roof is now being 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 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. 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.

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."



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/>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

Sat 6th Feb Prayer Breakfast by Zoom 8.30am. Please email Jonathan Hearn revjonathanhearn@btinternet.com for the access link/codes.

Mon 8th Feb Churches Together Forum by Zoom 8.00pm.

Please email Jonathan Hearn (address above) for the access link/codes.

HOTS (Healing on the Street) is unable to take place in the Market Place.

Please contact warwickhots@gmail.com for prayer.

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.

BISHOP KEITH ARNOLD

Bishop Keith Arnold, the first Bishop of Warwick, has died at the age of 94. Bishop Keith was ordained in 1952. He served as Rector of St John's Edinburgh, Vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale and Team Rector of Hemel Hempstead before becoming inaugural Bishop of Warwick in 1980. Bishop John said, "As one ordained by Bishop Keith, I'm sure that I will be joined with others who want to give thanks for his episcopal ministry and pastoral care."

CLAIRE STRACHAN

The Diocesan Church Buildings Development Officer, Claire Strachan, will be leaving in February to take on the role of Heritage Research Manager for a commercial archaeology company. Claire says, "I leave with no small amount of sadness over what I will be leaving behind. Since starting at the Diocese in 2008 I have learnt so much about church buildings, their history, architecture, use and management, and, most importantly of all, supporting all those wonderful folk across the Diocese who devote so much of their time in caring for these buildings. I will treasure the memories I have of working here, and I will miss my colleagues, and all the churchwardens and PCCs that I have worked so closely with immensely." At St Mary's we have always found Claire a supportive help in any building projects that we have considered and will miss her insights and enthusiasm.

REST IN PEACE

It has been a very moving week for funerals in church as we have commended three stalwart members of the St Mary's family into God's eternal love and grace - Peter Stubbs, Gillian Gould and Jean Liggins. All three were wonderful people with great personalities and are missed enormously by family, friends and folk at church. Please keep the loved ones of Peter, Gill and Jean in your prayers in the coming days and weeks.

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, Lily Thompson.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED: Gillian Gould, Jean Liggins, Peter Stubbs, Margaret Morris, Brenda Evans

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 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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Sunday 21st February - Lent 1

	10.30am Sunday Worship online only	
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