

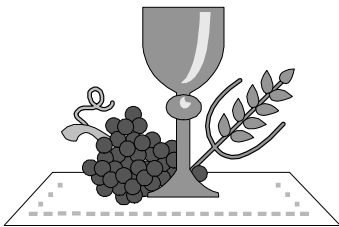


Weekly Newsletter

5th April 2020

Palm Sunday

WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER. Whilst all churches are presently closed due to the unprecedented circumstances we are continuing to produce our news sheet for upload to our website. If you are a newcomer to the area we hope that we have an opportunity to meet you soon and that you might enjoy worshipping with us when services resume.



These introductory paragraphs will give an idea of the kind of church we are. For instance, communicant members of any Christian church are welcome to make their communion with us. St Mary's seeks to be an inclusive church and welcoming to people of all ages and backgrounds.

We have a carpeted area available for the youngest members of our congregation, if they wish to use it. They may like to take an adult with them! If you are a wheelchair user, please speak to one of our sidespeople and they will happily move chairs to open up a space for you in the Nave.



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 @WarwicksChurchofTreasures

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzEoVgLkoagKM7OW_5rb0Q.

NOTICES

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Since posting our last Newsletter, the Standing Committee of St Mary's has convened by email and video conference to carry out essential Parish business and discuss some very difficult issues. Ongoing ministry, pastoral care and Church finances were at the top of the agenda. The last Newsletter gave an update on ministry and pastoral care and we will continue to keep you updated as our ideas come to fruition. However, on the topic of finance, the Standing Committee has reluctantly but inevitably concluded that we need to participate in the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

This scheme provides financial support to employers - the Government will pay 80% of an employee's wage bill up to a maximum of £2,500 per month and the employer may opt to "top-up" the salary back to the 100% level. The scheme is designed to allow employers to retain their

staff without over-stretching their finances at a time when income is considerably reduced. The Government scheme currently extends to the end of May, and we have decided that we will "top-up" salaries to the 100% level for the same period. To take advantage of the scheme, employers must place staff on Furlough Leave and this

has certain governmental conditions attached. In our case this means that our furloughed staff are not permitted to do any work for us, including responding to email or taking work-related phone calls. Please respect this in order to avoid putting our staff in a difficult position.



CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE



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UPDATE

With effect from April 1st we have placed the following staff on Furlough Leave:

Director of Music - Oliver Hancock

Assistant Director of Music - Mark Swinton

Administration Assistant - Glynis Nixon

Custos Premises - Mark Rigney and Francis Burns

Visitor Team - John Glover and Martin Carpenter

The only member of staff who has not been furloughed is our Operations Manager, Mary Adams. Mary had offered to take furlough but the Standing Committee has asked her to continue working.

Although the church is closed, many of the day-to-day tasks continue, including administering furlough and continuing to run payroll, not just for our own staff but also for the staff of the other churches in the Warwick team.

Our former Parish

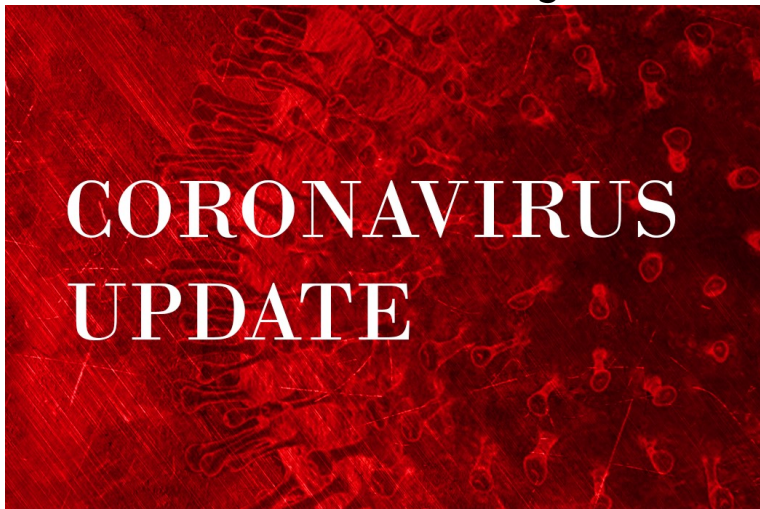
Administrator, Felicity

Bostock, officially begins

retirement on April 1st but has kindly agreed to support Mary over the coming weeks. We look forward to being able to get together to say a huge thank you and proper farewell to Felicity in the near future.

If you do need to contact Mary, please do so via the Operations Manager address om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk. Mary will also monitor the Admin email account while Glynis is on Furlough Leave, but please note that the Parish Administrator email address should no longer be used.

Finally, the previous announcement of an appointment to the Development Officer role is now on hold until further notice. This email account will be suspended until we return to normal operation.



KEEPING CONNECTED (1)



The church website remains a good way to stay connected with St Mary's. We're continuing with our weekly newsletter and the April Prayer Diary is also available to download and is being posted daily on Facebook. Tony King is hard at work on the next issue of the Parish Magazine which will be available to read and download from the website.

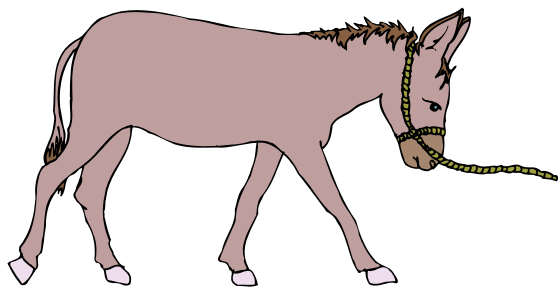
KEEPING CONNECTED (2)

We have extended our connections recently with two exciting new developments. First, a “St Mary’s Warwick Community” Facebook group. Mary Adams writes, “I’ve created this group so that, although forcibly separated, the whole community of St Mary’s can keep in touch. Please use it for news about what’s going on (or not) at church, to offer help or support, to ask for help or support, and to share anything relevant to our ‘normal’ ministry and worship.” To ask to join, press ‘Join Group’. Second, Alan Faulkner has set up a St Mary’s YouTube channel. This has a welcome from our vicar plus several of the services streamed on Facebook and some delightful organ pieces also recorded before the lockdown of our church.



HOLY WEEK ...

... begins with Palm Sunday this weekend. Vaughan, Alycia and Doreen are working on a series of ideas to take us through this unique Holy Week, which will be available to watch through our YouTube Channel and social media. Vaughan has a daily series of stories entitled People of the Passion. Doreen will present three compline addresses and Alycia is working on a special service for Good Friday.



PASTORAL CARE

As people will be aware, we are not permitted to keep St Mary’s open during part of the day, even for prayer. But thanks to everyone who offered to help with that. St Mary’s is continuing to explore how best to maintain our pastoral care of our congregation at this time. Frances Humphreys is kindly co-ordinating this with the help of Doreen Mills and Mary Adams.

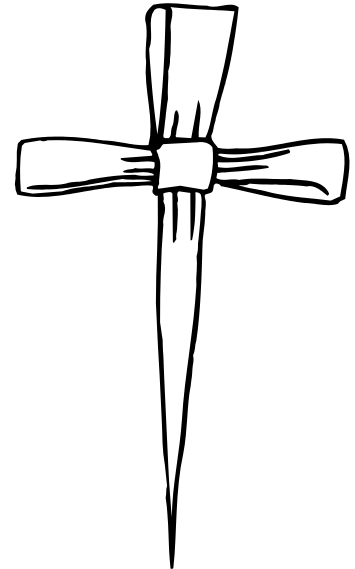


FINANCIAL HELP PLEASE!

With the closure of the church, most of our income streams have ceased to flow. 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 already have access to internet banking it is a simple matter to set up a standing order, weekly or (preferably) monthly. For more information please email our Operations Manager, Mary Adams, on om@stmaryswarwick.org.uk

CANS & CROSSES

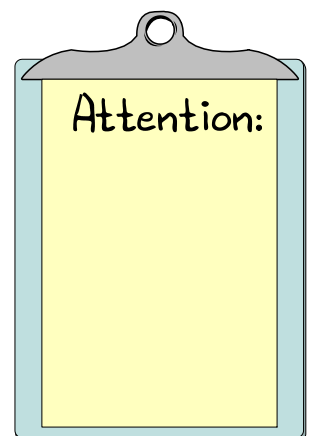
Foodbanks are under great pressure at this time so we have moved our collection basket from inside St Mary's to outside The Rectory (on The Butts). Feel free to drop donations into the basket on your daily walk. In addition, the vicar has brought some palm crosses over from church too (washing his hands first) and blessed them. They are outside the side door by the garage as well, so people are welcome to collect them for use in Holy Week if they'd like to.



THE REVISION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL has been completed and will be available in due course. Our Annual Meeting was due to have taken place today but has been postponed until a later date still to be announced. The Church of England has extended the time that this needs to take place into October.

THE VE75 DINNER COMMITTEE WRITE:

You will not be surprised to learn that we have decided to postpone the dinner on 6th May until later in the year. The re-arranged date is Wed 28th Oct. We will be in touch as soon as the new arrangements have been agreed. Keep safe, warm, look after your relatives, friends and neighbours, and we pray that this national emergency may be resolved as quickly as possible. God bless and thank you again for your support.



Carol Warren, Richard Warren, Helen Fitzpatrick, Tony Fitzpatrick

ST MARY'S SHOP

For the safety of staff and customers St Mary's Little Shop of Treasures will not be open until we are given the all-clear regarding the coronavirus situation. We look forward to seeing you when we re-open.

BIBLE STUDY

Plans are afoot for an online Bible study looking at the Acts of the Apostles to explore the nature of the Body of Christ in a time before church buildings, formal liturgies and many of the other things we now take for granted. Watch out for more details soon.



WANTED - BELLRINGERS



Warwick Bellringers (ringing at both St Mary's and St Nicholas') are keen to supplement our numbers by training new recruits. We have also had to suspend bellringing for the time being but if you think you would like to pursue a new hobby when it restarts, please contact Simon Rogers (07498363304 or simon.rogers17@ntlworld.com).

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.

CHOIR TOUR

Witamy w Polsce! (Welcome to Poland!) The boys, girls, and back row of our Choir are going to Poland in August 2020, but they need your help. Tours are a hugely important part of our Choir life: a tour enables us to act as ambassadors for Warwick and further afield; it improves the singing of the choir as a unit - one 'tour' day is equal to almost two weeks of our normal singing routine; it is an invaluable, positive, team-bonding experience; it enhances the cultural education of the choristers. We hope every chorister has the opportunity to participate in at least one international tour during his/her time in the Choir. Please donate whatever you can to support our musical ministry, via our JustGiving fundraising page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/warwickpolandtour. Please speak to our Director of Music, Oliver Hancock, for more details.



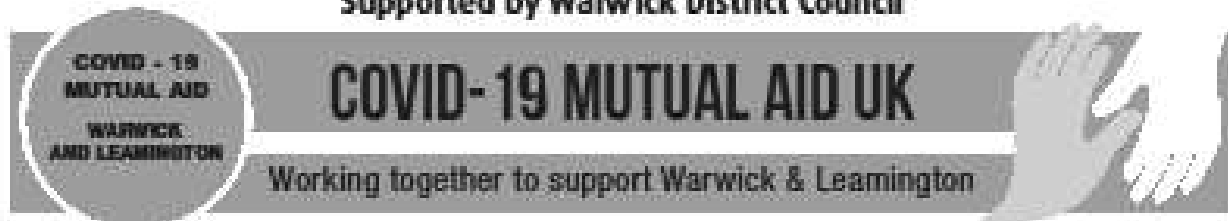
Are you unable to leave your home because of Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

We are a group of local residents and we want to support the community to make sure nobody is left isolated or without support. We don't ask for anything in return, we just believe in helping each other in a time of difficulty.

We can help with the things you can't get out to do, like shopping and collecting medication, or be a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

We are your local neighbours and not a professional body.
We can only offer help within reason, and in ways we can all also stay safe.

Supported by Warwick District Council



NEED SUPPORT?

If you can get online, fill in a help request here

<https://warwickleamingtoncovidhelp.wordpress.com/request-help>

Email us at: warwickleamingtoncovidhelp@yahoo.com

Call 01926 674065 and leave a message and you will get a call back.

If you need medical advice, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service at 111.nhs.uk/covid-19

or, if you have no internet access, call NHS 111 from your phone.

In a medical emergency, dial 999

If you want to volunteer to help the Warwick & Leamington Covid-19 Support Group, sign up using the volunteer form at: warwickleamingtoncovidhelp.co.uk

If you want to verify this leaflet is genuine
call Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0800 2231133**

ROCKING FOR POLAND

Despite his cherubic choirboy appearance, Ben Adams leads another life as a rock drummer, singer, guitarist and songwriter. Last summer he was lucky enough to spend a day at the famous Coach House Studio in Bristol, where he recorded three tracks which have just been released on an EP called Naturally, under the artist name BNADMS. You can hear them by searching on Spotify, YouTube or Apple Music. Ben wrote all of the music and lyrics of 'Mind Games' and 'In The Dark', and co-wrote 'Naturally' with our head chorister Tommy Perry. All vocals and instruments you hear are Ben, apart from the producer/engineer's lead guitar on 'Mind Games' and 'Naturally'. Instead of making and selling CDs, Ben is asking that if you enjoy listening to his tracks, or even if you don't, then you make a donation towards the choir's trip to Poland this summer. He has a fundraising page

at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bnadms-naturally>



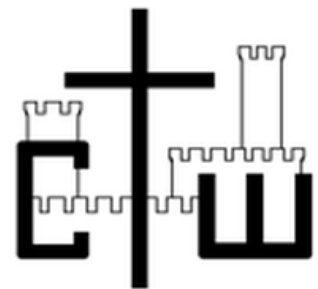
MARATHON FOR ST MARY'S



Our Organ Scholar, Lucy Morrell, is very grateful for the support and sponsorship towards her London Marathon attempt. You may have heard or seen that the Marathon has been postponed until later in the year. All donations are secure and will be held by JustGiving, and further information will be issued when possible.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

All CTW activities are suspended for the time being. This will include HOTS, Prayer Breakfasts and the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service in the Market Square.



SUPPORTING THE MUSIC OF ST MARY'S

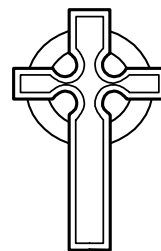


We are very proud of the musical tradition at St Mary's. If you would like to support the music-making here we would love to hear from you. It might be sponsoring a service of Choral Evensong in memory of a loved one, or offering a contribution towards the cost of a set of music for the Choir, or sponsoring a concert/recital, or something else! Once the coronavirus crisis is over, please contact the Director of Music if you can

help: dofm@stmaryswarwick.org.uk

REST IN PEACE

We are very sorry to hear the news about the recent deaths of Molly Carless and Andrew Clark. Molly was a stalwart at Sunday Evensong until she was no longer able to get out. Her funeral is this Monday (9th) at 10am. Due to current limits only 5 people can attend so Molly's godson would really appreciate it if we would spend a few minutes thinking about her on the day and giving thanks to God for her life. They'll be singing 'Immortal, Invisible' for those who wish to join in! Andrew was Dave Clark's father and has died after a short illness. Please remember Molly and Andrew's family, friends and loved ones in your prayers. There will be memorial services in due course for both Molly and Andrew.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Helen Black, Ellie Booth, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Sheila Freeman, Paul Haynes, John Hosiene, Mandeep Madar, Donald McCall, Gwen & Paul Shilton, Joanne Tubb.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

Mollie Carless, Andrew Clark, Dot Ransome.

NO PUBLIC SERVICES THIS WEEK: Beginning 5th April

Wednesday 8 th April	10.00am	NO Holy Communion
	5.30pm	NO Choral Evensong
Friday 10 th April	5.30pm	NO Choral Evensong

FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

—This will be updated when public worship resumes—

