



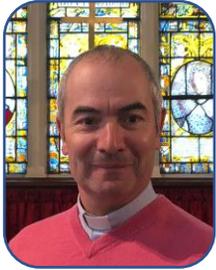
**Loving God,
source of healing and comfort,
fill us with your grace,
that the sick may be made whole,
that those who care for us may be strengthened,
that the anxious may be calmed,
and those most vulnerable be protected
in the power of Spirit
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*Prayer for the Coronavirus Pandemic
Written by the Dean of Southwark*

St Mary's Weekly News

15th March 2020

The Third Week of Lent



Responding Faithfully During the CoVid-19 Pandemic

Canon Simon Butler

Now that the Coronavirus situation has developed in to a global pandemic, and

we have moved into a new phase of responding to it in the United Kingdom, it is important that our Church responds appropriately to the developing situation. I write therefore about both the precautions as we taking at St Mary's and a suggestion about how, as a Christian community we might respond faithfully.

In the first instance, **we must respond responsibly**, taking the best possible advice that is being given. There is therefore **absolutely no reason why anyone who is well should feel unable to attend Church.**

The disease is transmitted most commonly through small droplets of breath, so as long as we take sensible precautions – good hand hygiene, coughing and sneezing into hankies (and then taking them away and disposing of them properly) – the chance of catching the disease from someone in Church is very low. Of course, **if you have been advised to isolate yourself**, please do not come to church during that period, but please let us know so that we can pray for you and offer practical support (see below).

Secondly, **we are taking sensible precautions during gatherings for worship.** We are **withdrawing the Common Cup at Holy Communion**, which means that we shall only be distributing the bread at the Eucharist (the Church of England teaches that receiving "in one kind" only is to receive the entirety of the Sacrament. Those administering Holy Communion will take proper hygiene precautions. We are also **suspending the sharing of the Peace through handshaking**, encouraging a method of greeting from Eastern cultures of a smile and a small bow (perhaps with the greeting of 'Namaste' as well) and we encourage worshippers use this when greeting others instead of general handshaking. We

will also be developing a non-touch approach to the **Ministry of Healing and Wholeness**, although it is especially important to be able to offer this ministry to those who become ill or who are particularly anxious, including the anointing of the sick.

We will keep the whole situation under constant review, updating you as necessary.

Coronavirus Angels

I had a brainwave in the middle of the night earlier in the week, about the other way which a Christian community might respond to this situation, reaching out to serve our neighbours as Jesus might.

It's very simple – the name '**Coronavirus Angels**' came to my mind. For those in our congregation who are well and able to serve others, wouldn't it be a great idea if local people were able to contact St Mary's if they need **practical help while in isolation** – a bit of shopping, perhaps walking the dog, and other tasks that require little or no contact with the person concerned. Wouldn't it be a good thing to respond like this?

I will be talking about this on Sunday and inviting us to think more together about how this can be done, but if you have any ideas, please do get in touch with me in the coming few days. I hope we can set this up in short time, but we will need a good number of people to volunteer both to distribute flyers in the coming days, and then to do the sort of small jobs that are needed.

Prayer in Time of Trouble

Lastly, may I encourage you to come to church this coming Sunday, not just to hear about Coronavirus Angels, but to pray about the current situation. I have decided that we should abandon the original Lent Series plan this Sunday morning and focus on the Coronavirus situations. The Church of England offers resources for a Eucharist 'In Time of Trouble' and this seems a good moment to make use of them.



Worship this Sunday: The Third Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)

Preacher: The Vicar

9.30am Bible Study Group in the Crypt

11.00am Parish Eucharist (In a Time of Trouble) with Godly Play

President & Preacher: The Vicar

Morning Readings: [Genesis 9:8-17](#), [Romans 8:18-25](#); [Mark 4:35-41](#)

6.00pm Short Evening Prayer followed by Lent Course

A Rational Faith? Christianity & Philosophical Enquiry

Second Talk: "She's Just a Shell Now": What Makes a Person?

Speaker: Dr Paula Boddington, New College of the Humanities

This Week's Focus Bible Reading: Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

**Concert for
Holy Week**

Sunday 5th April @ 6pm

**St Mary's Church,
Battersea**

Duruflé Requiem

Vaughan Phantasy

Williams Quintet





This Week at St Mary's

The Parish Office is open 9.30am to 12.30pm weekdays.

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| Monday 2 nd March | Morning Prayer at 8.30am Office Hour for the Booking of Baptisms and Weddings at 6.30pm Bellringing Practice at 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 3 rd March | Holy Communion at 8.30am |
| Wednesday 4 th March | Morning Prayer at 8.30am |
| Thursday 27 th February | Holy Communion at 12.30pm Bible Study Group in the Upper Vestry at 1.20pm |

Sunday 22nd March The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

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|---------|--|
| 8.30am | Holy Communion (Traditional Language) |
| 9.30am | Bible Study Group in the Crypt |
| 11.00am | Parish Eucharist with Godly Play During this service Alexander Stirling will be baptised <i>Preacher at Morning Services: The Vicar</i> <i>Sermon Theme: Christianity & Mental Health: Looking After Yourself</i> |
| 6.00pm | Short Evening Prayer followed by Lent Course <i>A Rational Faith? Christianity & Philosophical Enquiry</i> <i>Fourth Talk: "What Makes for a Good Society"</i> Speaker: Dr Nathan Mladin, Theos Think Tank |

Calling all Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Members of St Mary's

I'm keen to hear about your experience of life at St Mary's and to think with you about how we can better serve you, and whether there are any blocks or other things we do that we can change to make our church more inclusive to you and others.

I've tried to get a date fixed before Easter, but it's proving difficult, so I am suggesting that we have a bring-and-share supper together in Eastertide. I'm looking at the evening of **Tuesday 21st April** for this event. Please put the date in your diaries and we can arrange more details nearer the time.

Simon Butler



For Your Prayers

The sick and those in need: Gerry O'Shaughnessy, Harry Scott, Kathleen, Nichola Brooks & Julie Walsh, Christopher Willis, Ellie, Comfort Moses, Christopher Browne, Caroline Browne, Amy Carter, Natasha Zontenbeir & Kathleen Simpson, Jodie Murphy and Georgia.

The recently departed and their families: Billie Forbes, Sarah McAlpine, Peggy Drew, Judith Garziglia, Jean Gallrey, Vera Balkwill, Gabriel Guagetti, Daphne Lovett, Nhan Quan, Bob Burmiston

This Week's Notices

Lent at St Mary's:

It's not too late to begin a Lenten discipline.

Please take a copy of our Lent Brochure from the back of church today.

Regular Giving: St Mary's Church Council has set itself a goal of increasing our regular giving by £20,000 this year, to fund a gap between what is coming in and what is coming out. If you are not yet a regular giver, or do not yet give tax-efficiently, please see the light blue coloured information sheets at the back of church which explain how you can help us do these things. Thank you.

Lent & St Mary's Rule of Life: this season is the perfect time to explore St Mary's Rule of Life. Take a brochure from the back of the church and have a read or speak to one of the clergy if you would like to talk through this approach to Christian living: they would only be too pleased to help.

PCC Treasurer: Chris Moxey has decided to stand down as PCC Treasurer at the Annual Meeting at the end of April. We therefore have about six weeks to find a new treasurer, working with David and the Finance & Funding Working Group to manage our finances. If you might be willing to have a conversation about this, please do so with Chris as soon as possible (chris.moxey@me.com)

Summer in the Square: We have begun to plan for this event to be held again this year on Saturday 19th September to coincide with Open House Weekend. We are looking for volunteers to assist in the following role: Chief Coordinator on the Day, Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator. If you can help with either of these, please contact Simon.

First Communion Classes & Confirmation Preparation: If your child (aged 7 or over) would like to be prepared to receive Holy Communion or if you would like to be prepared for confirmation as an adult, please let one of the clergy know. We will try and put some preparation in the diary for the coming months.

Refurbishment Snagging: If you discover anything that looks like a snag to do with the refurbishment, please email David in the Office about it to get it addressed.

The Battersea Society is holding a new photography competition. We hope as many people as possible will enter - there are great prizes and the chance for winners' photos to be exhibited in the prestigious Royal College of Art's Dyson Gallery. The exhibition will be open to the public 21-24 May. The theme is My Battersea and we want entrants to explore what Battersea means to them. It is open to all, young and old, with prizes for under 10 year olds (£100), 11-17 (£150) and 18 and over (£250). Entries can be made via batterseasociety.org.uk/mybattersea and the competition closes on **20 April 2020**..

Good Friday Children's Activity Morning: This year's Good Friday Workshop will take place from 10am to noon at Sacred Heart Church. To register or to volunteer please contact Emma Tasker (emma@tasker.biz)



Contacts

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Canon Simon Butler

Vicar (Day Off: Thursday Evening/Friday)

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07941 552407

Reverend Aaron Kennedy

Associate Vicar for Community Development &
Mission (Day Off: Friday)

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07815 180273

The clergy are always ready to visit, or to offer confidential pastoral care. Please contact them directly. If you hear that a member of the parish is unwell or needs a visit or a call from one of the clergy, please let the clergy know. They may not have heard and are grateful to be kept informed.

Giving To St Mary's

We invite and encourage everyone who considers St Mary's their spiritual home to make a financial contribution to our work.

The best way of doing this is through setting up a Standing Order, so that your giving doesn't depend upon how often you are able to get to church.

To do this, just use these details

Account Name: Battersea Parish Church PCC

Sort Code: 502101

Account Number: 82127468

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please contact Chris & Erica Sage via the Parish Office