

St Mary's Weekly News

18th October 2020



*Meet our full team of Choral Scholars for 2020-21:
Theo, Marissa, Glyn and Martha.
Congratulations to Katy Silverman too: we've got a full team
for the first time in a number of years!*

<https://www.stmarysbattersea.org.uk>



Welcome to St Mary's Weekly Newsletter. After the launch of our Mission Action Plan last Sunday, today we celebrate the Evangelist of Mission, St Luke, and we recall how Jesus sent out his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God. We are called to do the same.

What's On This Sunday:

The Feast of St Luke the Evangelist

8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)

11.00am Festival Eucharist with Godly Play for Children

Preacher: Reverend Aaron Kennedy, Associate Vicar

Readings: [2 Timothy 4:5-17](#); [Luke 10:1-9](#)

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Led by Colin Pinnell

Readings: [Isaiah 61:1-6](#); [Colossians 4:7-end](#)

Our Morning Services are both live-streamed on [Facebook Live](#) (Click)

Sunday Coffee Times

We've had to temporarily suspend refreshments after church to comply with the Rule of Six. However, we can still gather on Zoom using these links:

9.30am: [Click Here](#) (Password: 7XNPO4)

12.15pm: [Click Here](#) (Password: 6JLUEP)

Next Sunday

The Last Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)

11.00am Parish Eucharist with Godly Play for Children

Readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 22:34-end

Preacher at both Services: Mrs Grace Cowley Kennedy

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Led by Reverend Aaron Kennedy




Readings: Ecclesiastes 11 & 12; 2 Timothy 2:1-7



Weekday Worship & Events

St Mary's continues to be open for private prayer
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

If you are anxious about coming to a well-attended service on a Sunday, why not come to a quieter one during the week.

Monday	Morning Prayer at 8.30am  Staff Meeting at 9.15am Bell Ringing at 7.30pm
Tuesday	Holy Communion at 8.30am  Funding & Finance Working Group at 7.00pm
Wednesday	Lectio Divina at 8.30am* Choir Practice at 7.30pm
Thursday	Midday Prayer at Noon  Action Learning Community Training 7.30pm to 9pm Battersea Deanery Synod at 7.30

***Lectio divina** is a way of prayerfully listening to scripture. [Click Here for our Wednesday morning Zoom call](#). The passcode is 259290.

A small group continue to say Morning Prayer together at 7.30am welcome others to join them. [Click Here](#).

For Your Prayers

The sick and those in need: Monica Blethyn, Jean Henshall, Frances Henderson, Claudia Hamson, Dan Bussey, Martha Kennerley, Jodie & James, P.K, Ian Watson, Anne Harcombe, Catherine & her family, Jesse Fitch.

The recently departed and their families: Phil Doyle, Robert Goodman, Sheila Smith, Dorothy Jones, Les Butler, Stephen Gaskin, Michelle Macfarlane and David Pinnell, Mary Anderson, Shirish Patel.

Our Mission Action Plan 2020-25

If you weren't here last week, please do take away the coloured flyer about the Mission Action Plan from the back of church, which details our exciting five year plan for our mission and ministry. If you would like to read the entire plan, it is available on the website.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

The Borough Remembrance Service, attend by the Mayor, is usually the largest congregation of the year and, with social distancing requirements in place, numbers will be strictly limited and will need to allow for a significant number of people who come for special reasons that day as well as key community leaders. The service will therefore be ticketed and tickets will be available from Monday 19th October at <http://bit.ly/smbpoppy>.

Given these restrictions, in order to provide an alternative to the 10.45am Remembrance Service, there will on this occasion be a **9.00am Parish Eucharist which will replace our usual 8.30am service**. It will last under an hour, giving us time to clean the church in preparation for the arrival of the Remembrance Congregation.

Welcome to New Arrivals:

Simon and Aaron are warmly inviting anyone who has started attending St Mary's – in person or online – to join them on Zoom for a get-together on the evening of Monday 26th October at 7.30pm. This will be an informal time, with the focus on meeting one another and finding out a little more about the life and work of St Mary's. Please take on the invitation flyers at the back of the church with the Zoom link on it.



Notices for the Coming Weeks

Regenerate Coffee Cart, the Charity which works with disadvantaged young people, have returned to St Mary's Churchyard with their new orange coffee cart, serving hot drinks and light refreshments. Even if we cannot serve refreshments ourselves after the 11am that the moment, you can buy a coffee outside after the service. But ***please observe social distancing***.

Study Groups: We currently have two groups meeting regularly for study, fellowship and mutual support. One meets weekly on a Thursday afternoon in church (led by Leslie Spatt – les@lesliespatt.co.uk) and one meets fortnightly on a Tuesday evening, and which will soon begin gathering in church (contact: Sarah Walker sarahcooke1958@gmail.com). Both groups welcome new members.

The Power of the One-to-One Relationship - Action Learning Community: The *remaining* dates for the sessions are as follows: 22nd October, 29th October, 5th, 19th, 26th November. The sessions will be held at St Mary's Church, from 7.30-9.00pm, and can be accessed live by the following Zoom link. <https://bit.ly/2Gjoweu> Password: 823902. More details from Revd. Aaron Kennedy.

Family@Church on Sunday 1st November: The first of these new services was a great success in October. The next one, which will have a Remembrance focus, will be on **1st November at 9.30am**. If you haven't heard about Family@Church, it is our new short, parent and child focused service at on the First Sunday of the Month. This service is aimed at those who might feel the pressure of time on getting to an 11am service, e.g. their children have sport commitments, or those who want a more informal service with space for children to feel free to roam!

New PCC Secretary: we are looking for someone to serve in this administrative role, which comes with PCC membership. Speak to Simon to find out more.

Glass Door Winter Night Shelter Update: We've been informed that Glass Door will not be hosting their Night Shelter at Chelsea Methodist Church at weekends over the winter. Following consultation, Simon and Felicity Prazak have decided that the suggested alternate venue (Pont Street Church of Scotland) is too inaccessible from Battersea to be a viable venue for our volunteers and we have informed Glass Door of this regrettable but necessary view. This means that, as things stand, we aren't going to be hosting an evening during the winter season this year. However, we have indicated that we are sure our volunteers would be willing to volunteer for more local venues, such as those in Wandsworth, and we await news from Glass Door about what, if anything, they would like us to do. You can still volunteer at <https://bit.ly/3cHsoC5>. We will keep you posted.

Organ Refurbishment & Recital Service: The refurbishment of our organ is complete and we would have liked to have given Katy our Director of Music the opportunity to give a recital concert to mark this moment, and to give her a chance to perform for us in her new appointment. Sadly current restrictions do not permit concerts; however, Simon and Katy have noticed that it is possible to have music performed as part of an act of worship(!) and so, in place of Choral Evensong on Sunday 22nd November, Simon and Katy are planning a music-led service of organ pieces and readings at 6.00pm, which will give us a chance to hear the instrument and our Director of Music in longer pieces of music. Put the date in your diary.



Communities, Contracts & Covenants
Aaron Kennedy

Many of you will know that Battersea Communities – which is a partnership between citizens and residents of Battersea from many different walks of life, including St Mary's, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, and Katherine Low Settlement – has been campaigning for a new community hub on the Surrey Lane Estate. This is an area of relative deprivation, where many people struggle with poverty – of food and of opportunity, and where a culture of fear and violence often dominates among young people. You may also be aware that our proposal that the Council create a new community hub as part of its redevelopment of Randall Close was recently rejected.

Disappointing though this was, it is not the end! We will continue to campaign for a community hub, albeit in a different location. We haven't given up on the residents, or on the campaign. The Council have a difficult job to do and must balance various concerns in their decision-making process, and Lord knows I don't envy them. I am concerned, however, that this decision (and others like it) is short-sighted, and leaves residents open to reach their own conclusions about the Council's attitude, often the same ones: they don't care, nothing ever changes, it's a dog eat dog world.

A recent article by Together for the Common Good diagnoses a problem in Western society that affects us all, and which I think is partly to blame for the Council's decision. They identify an unhealthy reliance on a culture of contract over and against the alternative, which they describe as a culture of covenant.

Contracts are legally binding agreements by one party to fulfil an obligation to another in return for some consideration – payment, etc. They are

transactional; there is no need for the parties to know anything about each other, or to trust each other. Once the service has been delivered and payment made, the relationship is over. The contract is all the security each party needs to ensure they get their dues. Obviously, this is a hugely important aspect of modern life, and we cannot dispense with it; but is a culture of contract enough to live by?

A covenant, by contrast, is an agreement that brings about a relationship of commitment. The Church of England is the fruit of a covenant with the people of this country: we are not engaged in discharging our legal obligation in a transactional way where money is paid for the delivery of a service; we are engaged in a committed relationship, of service, to the people of this country. We are bound together by relationship.

There are many other examples of this in everyday life. Today I met a governor of Westbridge Primary School who serves voluntarily despite not living in the area. She has a relationship of commitment that means she stays faithful and present to the school and serves in whatever way she can. Outside St Mary's the other day I bought a few little cakes from a stall raising funds for The Thomas' Foundation: our local private school has committed itself, in a covenantal relationship, to the people of Battersea, through the Foundation, to serve those who would otherwise be unable to afford to send their children there. An even more basic and more common example of covenant are our relationships with family and friends. We are not contractually obliged to look after our children; we love them in a covenantal relationship of commitment.

We saw a wonderful outpouring of love and care in Battersea throughout the lockdown period through the Coronavirus Angels' project. Much

/continued...



of that has now slowed down as the project has been mothballed, but the institutions behind it (St Mary's, Sacred Heart and KLS) remain committed to service through a relationship of covenant.

For some of us, life after lockdown has returned very much to the way it was before. That may be the case particularly if we are in stable jobs with secure incomes. This is certainly not the case for everyone. Negative interest rates are now being seriously discussed, the economy is on life support, and many jobs are under threat. How will we as a church respond if the unemployment rate shoots up and poverty and hunger become more pronounced? The culture of contract is just not enough to see us through such times.

It is at such times that we remember that we are bound to each other, that we cannot simply sit by and let people suffer safe in the knowledge that we are not legally obliged to help. We are called by God into a covenant of committed service to the people of Battersea.

Finally, a word about broccoli. Yes, the green vegetable. A head of broccoli is the same shape as a small floret of broccoli; and that floret is also the same shape as the smallest little branch of broccoli. The name for this phenomenon that scientists often use is fractal. It is when the individual parts of a thing have the same shape as the whole.

The whole, the big picture, for our community work in Battersea is the need for a culture of covenant; the tiny individual bits that make that up, the fractals, are one-to-one meetings, and committed relationships. A culture of covenant – of commitment and service, is our goal; how we get there is by the intentional practice of deeper relationships.

I hope you will consider coming along – digitally or in person, to our Thursday evening Action Learning Community sessions in October and November. We meet at 7.30pm at church, and the Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89238463959?pwd=elkxS3ZnNjYwRVR0OEU5b0h2WDVqQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3846 3959

Passcode: 823902

Peace
Aaron

NHS Test and Trace at St Mary's

To play our part in reducing the risk of virus transmission, the PCC asks everyone who visits St Mary's for any reason to take part in Test and Trace. When you visit the Church you will be invited to participate by:

You can download the **NHS Test and Trace App** from the Apple App Store or from your Android Device Store and use the 'Venue check-in function to scan St Mary's QR code clearly visible in church as you enter. This App holds your personal data for 21 days before deleting it.

Alternatively you can fill out your **personal details** as you come into church which we will keep for 21 days before destroying it. This information will be kept secure so others won't see it; it won't be used for any other purpose.

**We hope everyone will want to play their part in keeping the virus under control.
Thank you for your participation.**



Contacts

St. Mary's Church

The Parish Office, St. Mary's Crypt Battersea
Church Road London, SW11 3NA

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Tel 020 7228 9648

office@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

Canon Simon Butler

Vicar (Day Off: Thursday Evening/Friday)

vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

07941 552407

Reverend Aaron Kennedy

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

aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

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