

St Mary's Weekly News 25th October 2020



St Mary's
BATTERSEA
Growing together with God

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



Welcome to St Mary's Weekly Newsletter. We're now in Tier 2 but happily we are still able to gather for worship, while remaining committed in prayer to support those who are particularly anxious at this time.

What's On This 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 sung by St Mary's Choir

Led by Canon Simon Butler

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

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)

9.30am Family@Church

Our new monthly service for families with children, this month focusing on Remembrance

11.00am Parish Eucharist

Readings: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Luke 6:20-31

Preacher at 8.30am and 11am Services: Canon Simon Butler

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Readings: Psalm 148, 150; Isaiah 65:17-end; Hebrews 11:21-12:2



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 
	Bell Ringing at 7.30pm
	Zoom Gathering for Newcomers to St Mary's (see notice)
Tuesday	Holy Communion at 8.30am 
Wednesday	Lectio Divina at 8.30am* Choir Practice at 7.30pm
Thursday	Midday Prayer at Noon  Action Learning Community Training 7.30pm to 9pm

***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 you've not been at church in the past fortnight, please look out for 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 plan online, 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 a ticketing system will need to be in place. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/smbpoppy>. With these restrictions, in order to provide an alternative to the 10.45am Service, there will be a **9.00am Parish Eucharist which will replace our usual 8.30am service** for those who prefer to come to a different, or less-crowded, act of worship.

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 this coming **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 one or simply follow this [Zoom link](#). The password is 793385.



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.



The Latest News Flash Benaz Sutton

Two weeks ago, and every day since, the TV screens have shown more disturbing news.

No, not Brexit, not even Covid19 with its endless

maze of instructions for us to stay safe. It was the news of a battleground in an area with a seemingly unpronounceable name of Nagorno-Karabakh. To some it sounds Japanese but it is an ancient, biblical, Armenian region 4,400 square km. 90 percent of its population is Armenian. The common language is Armenian, with more ancient churches than I have seen in some cities in England. I am sure even now it means nothing to most of you. Armenia? Are you sure you don't mean Albania? Where is that? Where do I come into it and why am I telling you all these things?

I am Armenian. I have only been to Armenia once, for 5 days. More Armenians live outside Armenia than in. Most of these became refugees, reflecting different points in history... the genocide... the threat of communism... to name a couple. The Armenian Diaspora live far and wide, all over the world. Not being born in Armenia doesn't make you less Armenian. Distance makes no difference. I was born in Iran. My ancestors, amongst about 30,000 Armenians, were brought to Iran in 1619. We have lived in Iran peacefully and we have loved the country and the people for generations. We built many churches and schools there. We speak Armenian as well as Persian. We are known as Persian Armenians, just like my cousins in US are known as American Armenians, or here, as British Armenians. We make good emigrants. We integrate well, we are productive and try our best to make our difficult

journeys, to wherever we end up, worthwhile and, of course, are very grateful and loyal to our adopted countries.

I don't blame you for not knowing much about Armenia. We, naturally, seem only to know, and be interested in, what makes a difference to our everyday, busy and demanding lives. This is not news which will keep us awake at night. This news does not affect us here in Battersea. This is not a land known for its oil, gas, minerals, technology, engineering or wealth. It does not have much, or anything, worth fighting for. All I know is, when God was giving land away to nations and people, Armenians were last in the queue! They ended up in a landscape with nothing but hard work in every possible way you can imagine.

Armenia is part of The Caucasus, a huge, mountainous region, home to 3 countries: Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. We know Azerbaijan with its vast oil reserves and Georgia for giving us Stalin. The only thing famous we may know about Armenia is the genocide of 1915 by Turkey, which resulted in the loss of 1.6 million Christian Armenian population. A loss which Armenians keep remembering and reminding us of every year on 24th April. Armenia is a small country. Its main source of wealth is its people. Its neighbours are all Muslims: Turkey to its west; Azerbaijan to its east; Iran to the south and other Turkish speaking countries as far as Mongolia to China to the east. Armenia is a Christian country. It was the first country to adopt Christianity in 301 AC and over the centuries defended this faith with all its tiny might. If a couple of Armenians met, in the middle of nowhere, the first thing they would do was to build a church and a school. Nagorno Karabagh was Armenian land. In 1920 Stalin, to placate Turkey, gave that land to Azerbaijan (who are Turks). The USSR had taken over the whole region and was in control, until its collapse. The countries in the region/...



then became independent and the old questions came back to haunt them. It was a bomb waiting to go off and, with some political meddling, it has.

So, in simple terms, Armenia claims this land because, historically, it was hers. It was given away by Stalin with no consultation and, even then, against a backdrop of Armenian protests. Azerbaijan claims the land, because it was given to them in 1920s and it is in the records of the United Nation, with no regard to history and how and why.

Whose side are we on? I don't expect people to take side, as that could fuel the problem. But what we should not do is give air time, support or back those countries who have, and still are, destabilising the region, meddling and upsetting the peace with their own motives and agendas. The world needs good and fair negotiators to end the conflict. Meddling by other countries does not help. Turkey very openly admits it has started the conflict, because it eventually wants Azerbaijan to be united with Turkish land. If we are not careful, this unknown, unimportant piece of land with an unpronounceable name, which geopolitically means a lot to the region could bring the worst global unrest and situation than we have ever known. Turkey, Russia, Iran, Israel and all their proxies are ready to give their pennies worth, as has happened all over the Middle East... I hope we don't end up not only fearing the enemies but being let down and disappointed by silent friends. But worse than that the spine shivering and fear of yet another genocide happening and we watch and witness it from our homes, in front of the TV, as simply another NEWS FLASH pop-up headline...

So, let us pray for the region, for Nagorno-Karabakh, for the end of conflict, of this destruction and killing.

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.**

Green Sense Horticultural Therapy: Bev McAlpine has set up this community interest project, to provide horticultural therapy for local people who would like to integrate more with nature and learn about the benefits to their mental health. They are looking for green spaces either in private gardens where the maintenance would be taken care of in exchange for weekly access to, or other public green spaces that might be available for our use. Contact Bev at: bevmcalpine@gmail.com or on 07592775192.



Contacts

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07941 552407

Reverend Aaron Kennedy

Associate Vicar for Community Development &
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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