

# St Mary's Weekly News 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020





**Welcome to St Mary's Weekly Newsletter.** It's a matter of great regret that we cannot gather together again, especially at Remembrance-tide, which attract many additional worshippers and visitors to our services. In the coming weeks we shall do our best to keep in touch with you and to bring encouragement and hope in this second lockdown. This time of the year – the so-called 'Kingdom Season' invites us to remember that God's kingdom is the goal of all we do, and that 'being church' is about building the kingdom not just 'going to church'. Our clergy are available to offer support, one-to-one prayer and the sacraments in the days ahead.

## **What's On This Sunday: November Remembrance Sunday**

**9.00am Parish Eucharist**

**10.45am Borough Remembrance Service**

led by Canon Simon Butler & St Mary's Choir

*This service will include the Two Minutes' Silence, the Last Post and some wreath-laying.*

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

### **Sunday Coffee Times**

*Feel free gather on Zoom using these links after our services this weekend:*

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

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

## **Next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November Second Sunday before Advent**

**8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)**

**11am Parish Eucharist led by Reverend Aaron Kennedy**

*both live-streamed on [Facebook Live](#)*



## Weekday Worship & Events

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

|           |                                                            |                                                                                   |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Morning Prayer at 8.30am                                   |  |
| Tuesday   | Holy Communion at 8.30am                                   |  |
| Wednesday | Lectio Divina at 8.30am*                                   |                                                                                   |
| Thursday  | Midday Prayer at Noon                                      |  |
|           | Action Learning Community<br>Training 7.30pm to 9pm (Zoom) |                                                                                   |

\***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:** P.K, Ian Watson, Anne Harcombe, Catherine & her family, Jesse Fitch, Mary Injothe, Lester Hillman, Charlotte Elliott & Rohini.

**The recently departed and their families:** Rhianon, Sheila Eden, Richard Lewis, Rachael Floyd and Claudia Hanson.

**Website Redesign:** The parish website is currently being redesigned and improved. If you have any photographs of the church or any activities within or around it that might be an attractive addition to the website, please email them to Simon in the coming week. We hope the new website will be ready for Christmas

**Purchase of 2-Bedroom Flat in Winfield House:** We have completed the purchase of this property. If you might be interested in renting it, please get in touch in touch with Chris [chris.moxey@me.com](mailto:chris.moxey@me.com) if you would like to find out more.

## 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 here](#)

## Our Lockdown Prayer Project

Prayer is at the heart of faith and many of us may well have a particularly important or significant prayer that is close to our hearts. We would like to invite you to share those with the rest of the congregation through our Facebook page. All you need to do is to email Simon our Vicar your favourite prayer, together with a few sentences of why your chosen is important to you, and day by day we will post them on the Facebook site, to give us each access to a daily prayer we can say. Alternatively, you might wish to write a prayer to share with us. It would be lovely if we could encourage one another in this way, and we warmly invite you to start sending Simon favourite prayers to [vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk) (ideally with a photograph if you are happy) and we will begin to post them from Monday 9th November.

## Glass Door Winter Night Shelter Update:

After some Covid-related back and forth, we have now been asked and agreed to host the night shelter on **Friday evenings at St Barnabas Church, Clapham Common**, for the second half of the winter season, i.e. from January to Easter. You can still volunteer at <https://bit.ly/3cHsoC5>. Further details soon.



**Regenerate**, the Charity which works with disadvantaged young people, has returned to St Mary's Churchyard with their new orange Coffee Cart. It will be open 8.30am to 6pm during lockdown.

**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.

**Diversity and Inclusion at St Mary's:** we want to make improvements to welcome more people, looking at disability, age, gender, ethnicity, economic and family status. Share your thoughts with Jenny ([jenny.scott.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.scott.thompson@gmail.com)), Libby Bradshaw, Charlotte Kirwan or Lizzie Wilson-Gray.

**Christmas Nativity Play, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:**

We won't be able to prepare the usual Sunday morning nativity this year, but Cal Alphonse has come up with the brilliant idea of asking our families to prepare a video we can share that day, whether we meet physically or online. Cal is keen to find someone who can help her with the editing and splicing of the film clips. Contact: [cal@learningdifferences.co.uk](mailto:cal@learningdifferences.co.uk)

**The Power of the One-to-One Relationship - Action Learning Community:**

The *remaining* dates for the sessions are : 5th, 19th, 26th November. The sessions are at St Mary's Church, from 7.30-9.00pm, and on Zoom. <https://bit.ly/2Gjoweu> Password: 823902. More details from Revd. Aaron Kennedy.

***The Archbishops have written a "Letter to the Nation". Here's an excerpt from their letter:***

There is a story in the Bible where Jesus and his disciples are caught in a storm. The disciples are understandably terrified as the wind and waves threaten to overpower them. 'Why are you so afraid?', Jesus asks. This year, we too have been caught in a storm which often feels overwhelming. And yet we can look to Jesus, in the boat with us, who calms the storm and comforts us in our fear. We are writing to share our belief that whoever you are, and whatever you happen to believe, you are loved by God. Beyond measure. We also want you to know that we are praying for you, particularly asking that Christ's love will comfort us, calm our fears, and lead our nation and our world through this terrible pandemic. Starting this week, we have asked every church to pray each day. We invite you to join with us.

Let's be **calm**. By only buying what we need and not hoarding, or by reaching out to our neighbours as we did during the first lockdown, we can be stronger together in ways that are impossible if we go it alone. When things go wrong - as they always will with such complex challenges - let us look for good and right ways forward together.

Secondly, let's be **courageous**. There are many reasons to be fearful at the moment, but the story of Christ calming the waves calls us to give our fears to Jesus and have faith in Him. The British willingness just to get on with things is one of our very best characteristics – let us not be paralysed by fear. We will all need each other's courage in the months to come.

Let's be **compassionate**. So many of us are holding so much pain - our own and the pain of those we love. We will need to be gentle, kind and patient with each other. In the first wave we showed we are a nation of compassion and kindness. Let's dig deep and keep that love for our neighbours strong in this second time of struggle.



## Pray for the Nation

At a time of national anxiety the Church can be a beacon of hope and encouragement. Even if we feel worried just like everyone else, we have a confidence and security in God's goodness to turn away from self-absorption to reach out to others. The bishops of the Church of England are inviting us all to [Stop and Pray for the Nation](#) at each day and we are going to do this at 1.00pm (or as near as possible to that moment).

When we Stop and Pray five minutes of prayer could like this:

**collect your thoughts and focus on God...**

**think of one thing for which you are thankful...**

**pray for one thing each day as below...**

***(Sunday: loved ones; Monday: children and young people; Tuesday: older people and the vulnerable; Wednesday: Businesses and workplaces; Thursday: the NHS and key workers; Friday: National and local government; Saturday: all who grieve or suffer mental illness)***

**say the Lord's Prayer (and possibly the daily Favourite Prayer)...**

**say the Grace or make the sign of the cross...**

**and then move on with the day.**

We will be ringing the church bell at 1pm each day as well. Join us to Stop and Pray.

A Prayer for the Weeks Ahead:

Loving father God  
Be with us in our distress:  
with our families, friends and neighbours  
our country and our world.  
Give health to the sick  
hope to the fearful  
and comfort to the mourners.  
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers  
Insight to our government  
and patience to us all;  
Overcome disease with the power of your new life  
through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.



## Contacts

### **St. Mary's Church**

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*Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm*

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### **Canon Simon Butler**

Vicar (Day Off: Thursday Evening/Friday)

[vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk)

07941 552407

### **Reverend Aaron Kennedy**

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

[aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto: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**