

St Mary's Weekly News

Advent Sunday

29th November 2020



St Mary's
BATTERSEA
Growing together with God



Our Advent Hope in God



stmarysbattersea

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



**COMING SOON:
A Christmas Fayre
19th – 20th December 2020
St Mary's Churchyard**



Plans are coming together to put on a Christmas Fayre in the Churchyard the weekend before Christmas.

More details soon, including how you can get involved in a number of different ways.

Details: Richard (richardkennethcross@gmail.com)

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



Welcome to St Mary's Weekly Newsletter. We are eagerly anticipating returning to public worship from Wednesday. In these last days of lockdown our worship is conducted online. In some ways, it's a shame to miss Advent Sunday together, with its powerful message of 'good news coming' – very timely just now. However, we hope you enjoy gathering virtually for one final time. We sense it may be the last time we all have to do so, although live-streaming will now form a normal part of what we offer Sunday by Sunday.

What's On This Sunday The First Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)

Live-streamed on [Facebook Live](#)

11am A Service of the Word led by Reverend Aaron Kennedy

Readings from the Book of Nehemiah

This Service will be on [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 819 2951 8947; Passcode: 965502

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 The Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)

9.30am: **Family@Church: Christingle Service**

A Service for Families & Children

with a focus on the message of Christingle

11.00am **Parish Eucharist**

Preacher at 8.30am and 11am: Canon Simon Butler

Readings at 8.30am and 11am: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Evening Services Return in the New Year



Weekday Worship & Events

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

30th November Morning Prayer at 8.30am 

1st December Holy Communion at 8.30am 

2nd December **St Mary's Reopens for Public Worship**
Lectio Divina at 8.30am*

3rd December Midday Prayer at Noon 

***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: Mary Paton, Lloyd & Hubert Maxwell, Charlotte Elliott, Rohini, Robert Law (Covid-19), Jilly Warom, Simon Letcher and Mrs Cheeseman

The recently departed and their families: 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.

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.

Christmas Services: A number of our popular services will need to be ticketed this year. Additionally, we are holding two identical Carol Services so that people can come and enjoy the familiar music and words of the Nativity in good numbers. The ticketed services will be:

Carol Service 1 (Afternoon)

Sunday 20th December at 3.30pm

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/339ULp2>

Carol Service 2 (Evening)

Sunday 20th December at 6pm

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/3pTEiyR>

Midnight Mass

Thursday 24th December at 11pm

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/2J3ELxU>

Christmas Morning

Friday 25th December at 11am

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/2IVufZH>

There will also be the usual celebration of the Eucharist at 8.30am on Christmas Day, which will not be ticketed. You can book from now onwards, including for groups.

2-Bedroom Flat in Winfield House to Let: If

you might be interested in renting it, contact Chesterton's Estate agent (020 7924 4400)



Now on Instagram: You can follow us on Instagram from this week. We are there as [stmarysbattersea](#)

Advent Online: This year we will journey through the season of Advent both physically in our public worship and virtually via our Facebook Page and, as a trial our new *Instagram account (stmarysbattersea)*. You can follow us by liking the page and getting Advent material in your feed. Alternatively, you can use the lovely virtual Advent Calendar by visiting the lovely people at Advent Online (<https://adventonline.faith/advent-calendar/>) for a daily offering to help you to pray and ponder.

A Christmas Day for All: We all know that this is going to be an unusual Christmas and we want to ensure that, as much as possible, everyone in our community has a joyful day blessed with human company. To that end, we want to invite you to consider what you are doing on Christmas Day and whether you might be glad to be invited into the home of a family or other small group of friends to celebrate Christmas Day and to have lunch together. In the same way, we want to invite families or other small groups of friends to consider whether they might be able to welcome someone into their homes on Christmas Day. It would appear that the Government regulations permit us some wriggle-room here and it is our sincere hope that no-one who would want to be with others that day is left to be alone. To that end, if you would like to offer hospitality to someone or would like to be asked to someone's home for Christmas Day, please contact aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk



KLS are having a Christmas Fundraising Campaign, with a 'Double Your Donation' facility, where The Childhood Trust will add to what we donate up to a total of £14,000. If you can help KLS Love to Learn Project fund its leadership fundraiser, then [please click here to donate from 1st December](#)



This is an example of the material you can find on the [Advent Online](#) website, which you can use to journey through the season of Advent up to Christmas. We especially encourage you to use the Advent Calendar, with special resources for each day up to Christmas, to help you in prayer and meditation in the days ahead. This is the mediation for Advent Sunday

Stars Falling from Heaven by Reverend Erin Clark

You might like to read [Mark 13:24-27](#)



In *The Last Battle* by C. S. Lewis, once the apocalypse is underway, the stars are called home. The visiting earth-children watch it happen: the sky grows dark, streaks of light criss-cross the sky, but then instead of fiery orbs, glowing humanoid figures assemble. There's a sense of relief and conviviality at their gathering, having been flung out at the creation of the universe and now gathered in once more.

I have always loved this image, drawn as it certainly is from Mark's apocalyptic prose in which 'stars will be falling from heaven.' Lewis has taken this image of prophetic signs in the skies and the collapsing of the firmament, and domesticated it somewhat. Like fields that are ripe for reaping, even the skies need yield up their lights.

This year I stayed up late on two occasions to try and watch meteor showers, the Quadrantids in January and the Perseids in August. I was successful neither time because of low clouds (no Son of Man in sight).

I remember how optimistic about 2020 I felt on January 3rd, as I considered climbing up on the church roof with a flask of hot chocolate to wait for the heavenly sight. In my gut was a sense of possibility about the year. Possibilities have come, of course, but different ones to the ones we all hoped for.

Advent begins today: that traditional time of looking forward and backwards, examining the 'four last things' — heaven, hell, death, and judgement — and finding in them not only cause for sober attention, but also cause for hope. In many ways, the shatterings and apocalypses that many of us have experienced this year make these 'last things' seem ever more urgent topics for meditation and teaching. As we meditate and as we teach may we be guided by hope: may we watch out for that first faint, then unignorable, north star of hope in Christ, heralded by the whole of creation.



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