



St Mary's Church Newsletter

7th February 2021

Sunday Next Before Lent

WELCOME TO ST MARYS CHURCH SERVICES IN LOCKDOWN

It seems really unlikely that we will be resuming Public Worship until at least the end of March. We will continue to send our weekly Reflective Sheets and offer a zoom service at 10.30am on a Sunday morning.

For **Ash Wednesday (17th February)** we will have a shared zoom Service at **7.30pm** with St Oswald's and St Andrew's. We will also hold some evening zoom study/reflections – details to follow.

For use in our own homes the suggestion is we share in reading together: *Lent in Plain Sight – A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. It is easily available from Amazon [other online bookshops are available eg.

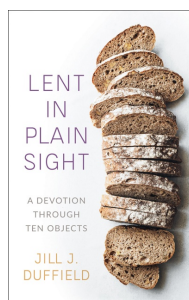
<https://uk.bookshop.org/> - Ed] BUT for those not able to get a copy please let either myself or Karen know, and we will happily send you a copy.

To receive information about zoom services subscribe by sending an email to: marys-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com

We will also use this to email out a reflective sheet each week in addition for those who prefer to read something.

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops have called on people to pray daily through February for our nation. Sheffield diocese are publishing a prayer (or video prayer) on its Facebook and Twitter feeds each day at 6.00 pm. The C of E have published a helpful leaflet of prayers and topic suggestions – it can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/>



[sites/default/files/2021-01/PftN%20Booklet%20v2_0.pdf](https://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/sites/default/files/2021-01/PftN%20Booklet%20v2_0.pdf) Or more simply why not set an alarm on your phone for 6pm each evening and just take a moment to pray.

LENT REFLECTION EVENINGS

on zoom

Dates will be **Wednesday 24th February; Thursday 4th March; Wednesday 10th March; Monday 15th March and Wednesday 24th March** – full details will be circulated separately next week.

NEW ST MARYS WEBSITE

www.stmarys-church.co.uk

Steve is gathering a group of people to develop and maintain the parts of the site which are relevant to the work of the church.

No technical skills are required. There could be some zoom meetings over the next few months, but it would also be helpful if people could just answer questions by email.

If you might be interested and would like to know more, please contact Steve - steve@to-lo.co.uk. Thanks.

FAMILY NEWS

Tabitha and Joel Waweru's daughter Leah got married to Zablon at St Joseph of Arimathea Church in Nairobi, Kenya.



Some of us were able to join in via a web broadcast.



Also, two of our young people have recently celebrated 18th birthdays: Penny and Dave's Jonas, and Odette's Sandra. Congratulations to them both!

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

The BAME Diocesan Working Group are having a service mark Racial Justice Sunday which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The service will take place on 14 February at 4pm on zoom.

It would be great if St Mary's could highlight our concern for this issue and support the service – Miriam is among those organising it – zoom details to follow or direct from Miriam. Miriam.e.cavanagh@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHANGES AT ST MARY'S OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS

REV CLAIRE DAWSON

"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us" 2 Cor 4.7.

The last 12 months have been challenging beyond what any of us could have imagined. The pandemic has also had a direct and significant impact on St Mary's as an organisation and I wanted to share with you some of those changes, challenges and opportunities.

At St Mary's we started 2020 as three mutually dependent organisations and have finished 12 months later as two organisations: we liquidated our Conference and Catering

Company; and also went through a staff redundancy process with the Community Team. So, we have been bruised by the last 12 months, stripped back as an organisation and our vulnerability exposed. We are now however, I believe, on the cusp of something new: there are some small shoots emerging which we hope can set a path of recovery for the future.

In order for St Mary's to be here in 10-20 years times we need to radically change how we operate and function as an organisation. St Mary's has always been a place where social action is at the core of its purposes and principles which is deeply rooted from our Christian faith and heritage. Going forward we need to understand the Community Centre and Church Community as having a common vision and shared purposes. This I believe is the mission of God in this place and for this time.

The hope is that over the next 12 months:

- We will see the endeavours of the Community Centre and Church develop and produce sustainable fruit evident in the transformation of lives and community.
- We will feel more confident in our shared mission and values and an organisation understanding more fully the part we all play in achieving the whole.
- We will have been able to clearly articulate our Christian values with the activities of St Mary's and connect these to the wider Diocesan Strategy.

"St Mary's is a hopeful [Christian] community, of all faiths and none, mobilised to break cycles of poverty, isolation and injustice".

The PCC will be exploring the vision for the future of St Mary's in two evening zoom sessions: Monday 22nd Feb & Mon 29th March at 7pm. These sessions are open to other members of the congregation to join. Please let Claire know if you wish to attend and a zoom link can be sent nearer the time.

...find out more...talk to someone...send some news...

Follow @marys_church on twitter for congregational news.



Vicar: Revd. Claire Dawson
cdawson@blueyonder.co.uk

0114 272 4987 / 0749 3912127 (day off Friday)

stmarys-church.co.uk

Newsletters available online
news to steve@to-lo.co.uk or
0783 5420392

St Marys facebook group
facebook.com/groups/stmarysbl



Associate Vicar: Revd. Karen Cribb
revkaren@stmarys-church.co.uk
0758 0378507 (day off Tuesday)