St Mary's Church Newsletter

18th July 2021

WELCOME TO ST MARYS

COVID SAFETY

In the light of Government Regulations being removed from the 19th July the PCC have considered how we continue to keep everybody safe and secure. There is a rapid spike in current infections, so it is unwise for all restrictions to be removed just now. In order for our services to operate safely the PCC have decided that for public worship:

- Face coverings should continue to be worn
- We will not be returning to the common cup for communion but will continue to receive bread only.
- We will keep a 'non-contact' practice of sharing the peace.
- We will keep social distancing measures in place.
- Conversations to be encouraged outside.
- Singing remains a really high-risk activity for the spread of Covid. Singing outside really reduces this risk. We will encourage humming or singing very quietly with face coverings in place.

In order for us to operate safely it REALLY HELPS IF YOU BOOK IN FOR THE SERVICE. To book a seat please contact Ann Brownhill. liz.a.brownhill@gmail.com

Refreshments after the service

We hope to serve hot and cold drinks outside after our services as part of the easing of restrictions – we will be using mugs from the Centre which have been properly cleaned but do feel free to bring your own. Drinks will be prepared in the Centre kitchens by a rota of members of the congregation – if you are able and willing to help please let one of our wardens Ann or Miriam know, or speak directly to Elaine Cox who is organising this for us – thank you Elaine !

UPCOMING SERVICES

Upcoming services – where weather permits we hope to hold some of our services outside over the summer months.

This **Sunday 18th July** All Age worship led by Karen and Beki with a focus on the worldwide church and celebrating our schools.

Sunday 25th July A service of Holy Communion

Sunday 1st July - A service of Holy Communion with separate activities for children and young people.

Sunday 8th August - Farewell and Thanksgiving Service for Graham Duncan.

Sunday 15th August – A service for All Ages.

Sunday 22nd August - A service of Holy Communion with separate activities for children

NB this is also our Youth Groups Weekend Residential.

Sunday 29th August – A service for All Ages

GRAHAM DUNCAN

Many of you will know that Graham has been managing the Community Centre at St Mary's for over 21 years. He has decided it is time to step down from this role and will be leaving St Mary's at the end of August 2021. Graham has been a real asset and friend to St Mary's and

given so much to all the good work and innovative community work which has happened here.

There will be an opportunity to say goodbye to Graham on **Sunday 8th August** at 10.30 am in a service at St Mary's. Please book a seat for this.

We will also be collecting for Graham. Gifts can be given to Claire, Karen, Miriam or Ann. You could also leave a gift via BACS just reference it 'Graham': Sort Code: 40-41-13 Account: 21389505 St Mary's Bramall Lane PCC, HSBC Bank. Thank you!

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

St Mary's Church and St Mary's Community Centre have a new joint vision and mission statement:

> St Mary's is a hopeful community of people, of all faiths and none, and a place of Christian worship mobilised to break cycles of poverty, injustice and isolation.

There are seven parts to the vision statement which then form our mission statement. The first one is

Hopeful

Our faith equips us with a strong and lasting hope which encourages us to see beyond what is broken to new beginnings; we believe things don't have to be this way. So we offer a hopeful presence within our city, working with others to build resilience. We don't sidestep the real issues but face these with honesty and integrity.

FROM CAROLINE

Caroline has been growing her hair during lockdown, but is going to have it cut in September. She is going to donate it to '**The Little Princesses Trust**' who use donated hair to make wigs for children with cancer. It would be nice if we could send some money as well. If you would like to sponsor her, please let her know. Thank you.

ST MARYS FAMILY CHOIR

Thanks to all who joined St Mary's Family Choir at our 'Celebration of Diversity' led by Revd Claire last Wednesday

The sun shone as we heard about the importance of the successful, African-American Motown Record Company in de-segregating pop music in the 1960s.

Some of the 7 songs (Ain't no Mountain and your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher) could easily be sung as Gospel.

Others (Sir Duke and Love Train) sing of unity through music and community.

Dancing in the Street and I'm Coming Out have both been anthems for Social Justice, and the Jackson's ABC was just good fun!

Big thanks to Merys from the Centre kitchen for providing Burgers afterwards with the icecreams: a lovely, sunny evening of St Mary's Celebration!

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

Follow @marys_church on twitter for congregational news.

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

Vicar: Revd. Claire Dawson
cdawson@blueyonder.co.uk
0114 272 4987 / 0749 3912127 (day off Friday)

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