



St Mary's Church Newsletter

24th January 2021

Advent

WELCOME TO ST MARY'S WORSHIP IN LOCKDOWN

We have currently closed our church buildings for public worship. It is likely this will be the case until at least the end of February. We look forward to opening again when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime we are offering a zoom service on Sunday mornings at 10.30am – the link for this will be emailed. To subscribe email: marys-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com

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

You must book in to attend church – please contact Ann Brownhill liz.a.brownhill@gmail.com 07740050144 and book before Thursday – this really helps!

Hands: Face: Space. Keep at 2m distance: wash/sanitise hands: and wear a face covering!

SOCIAL SUPERMARKET

This is still operating during lockdown although the café and group activities have had to be put on hold. People who are experiencing difficulty with access to food can join for a weekly shop which costs £3. There are some items which sell out quickly so if you are able to donate the following: instant coffee; cooking oil; toilet roll; UHT milk – these item can be left at St Mary's reception- thank you!

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

Wednesday 27th January at 7pm via ZOOM. This is for the accounting period of 2019/2020 but will also provide a update on the current work of St Mary's Community Centre. There have been a lot of changes over the past 12 months, we are not going to have the opportunity to reflect fully on this but this is a useful time for questions and understanding some of the current context.

Invites will be sent out to PCC members, if others are interested please let Claire know and an invite can be sent.

GIVING AT ST MARY'S.

A reminder a safe and easy way to give to St Mary's is via text : Text STMBLGIVING 3 to 70450 to donate £3 or STMBLGIVING 10 to donate £10 etc.

[Click here for details](#)

<https://to-lo.co.uk/mobsite/>

Thank you!

LENT REFLECTION

Opportunities to reflect in Lent – we are planning to offer two ways of engaging together in Lent –

1. A weekly midweek zoom gathering which will be a chance to reflect on a lesser known Old Testament character and hold that alongside an exploration of a current relevant situation particularly in the light of the pandemic. The five topics we plan to cover are :

- The medical frontline.
- Young people and children and the effects of the pandemic.
- Parenting/caring;
- Race;
- Loss and bereavement.

If you would like to make a particular contribution/input to any of these sessions, or would like to help to plan one please let Karen know.

2. Using the book "Lent in plain sight – a devotion through 10 objects" we will produce a weekly study and reflection sheet that will be available to everyone.

NEW ST MARY'S WEBSITE

St Mary's has a new website – it is still being

edited, added to and reviewed – take a look and let us know what you think

www.stmarys-church.co.uk

BISHOP'S ANNUAL LECTURE

The Bishops Annual lecture will take place on zoom this year – it is being given by Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester and is entitled “Lidentity” – the mirror often lies The happiness of many young people is diminished as they buy into the lie that their worth is all about their appearance. Bishop Rachel will speak about Christian perspectives on identity, worth and image, drawing on her experience of launching the 'Lidentity' campaign and its work with schools and colleges. In this campaign she expresses her passion for every young person to know that they are unique, precious and 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. You can book in for this through the Diocese website or direct on

<https://www.stpeterscollege.org.uk/events/bishops-annual-lecture-2021-tuesday-liedentity>

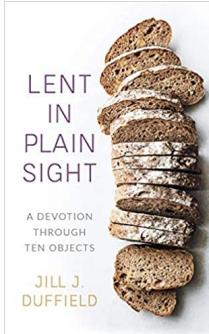
UNWANTED COMPUTERS

Home-schooling partly relies on children having access to laptops/tablets etc – do you have any old and unused ones at home or work ? There is a great project in Sheffield that will take these, clean them securely and distribute them to families in need – details are on

<https://www.ltfk.co.uk/>

EXTENDED FAMILY NEWS

Sue Green was the Conference and Catering manager at St Marys for nearly 20 years, a great friend and colleague to many of us. Sue had been living with a cancer diagnosis for over a year and died just before Christmas.



Graham was able to conduct her funeral earlier this year and we hope to have a big celebration/memorial for Sue in the future. She was the driving force behind the Conference and Catering side of St Mary's and also took great care of the practical maintenance and smooth day-to-day running of the building. Among other things she initiated our very successful Craft and Vintage Fayres and made many of our own parties and celebratory events run not just smoothly but fabulously. Sue was full of life and energy, very organised and good fun.

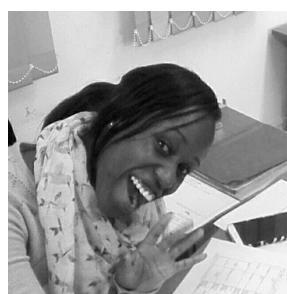


She built a loyal and hard working team of staff and she will be much missed. We thank God for Sue and for all that she brought to St Mary's, please hold her family and friends in our prayers – in particular her partner Mary.

Claire Maxwell was our Youth Worker over 5 years ago, she and her husband Steve were married at St Mary's in 2015 and they have just had a new baby boy Zachary born on 5th January a brother to big sister Phoebe aged 2. Claire is now a minister in the Moravian church in London.



Leah Waweru was part of St Marys in the 1990's when her dad Joel was an associate minister at St Mary's (he is now Bishop of Nairobi !)



Leah is getting married – on 29th January in Nairobi to Lablon Ritho.

Follow @marys_church on twitter for congregational news.



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St Marys facebook group
facebook.com/groups/stmarysbl



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