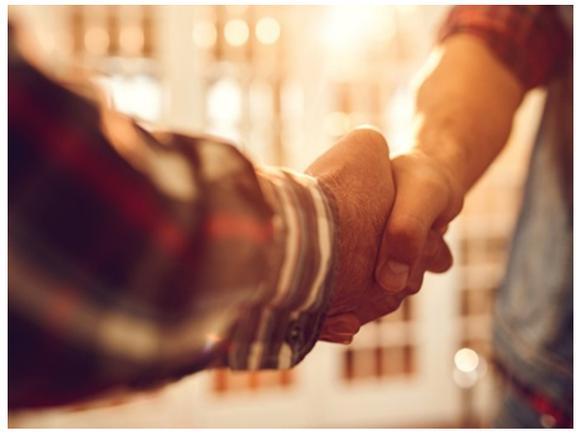


# M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter



*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13.2)*

## Hello Everyone,

As we continue to spend time exploring our church values, it feels slightly ironic to be thinking about what it means to be a *welcoming* church in the same week as sending out a long document explaining what a church service will look like under the current restrictions of social distancing. There doesn't seem to be anything welcoming about a long list of 'you can't do this' and 'you can't do that'. It's a real conundrum: can you be socially distant and yet welcoming at the same time? For those of us who like to shake hands or give one another a hug, that might feel quite challenging!

The answer, though, must surely be that it *is* possible. We just have to think about other ways of showing our welcome. Because the fact is that being welcoming is about so much more than simply offering a handshake or a hug. It's so much more, even, than just a warm smile as we give someone a notice sheet as they arrive at a service.

Being welcoming is also about taking time to get to know someone and what would make them feel comfortable and included and 'at home'. It's about helping them feel like they really 'belong'. That is undoubtedly more tricky 'online' and something we are working out how to do, but we have to try.

There is a wonderful line in Psalm 68, which always strikes me. We worship a God who '*sets the lonely in families*'. That really came home to me some years ago, when I got to know Freddie, a truly lovely gentleman who did an Alpha course at my church in London. He was single and had spent many years looking after his elderly parents. When they died, he was alone. When he came to Alpha he confessed, like others on the course, that this was the only time during the week that he ate a meal with anyone else.

After the course, he kept coming to church because, in his own words, he had found a new family. I felt incredibly honoured when he asked me to stand for him as a sponsor when he got confirmed. He had found a place where he was loved and included and where he found a new purpose.

We have a God who exists 'in community' as Father, Son and Spirit and in his image we are created for interaction and community. He has created us for one another. What might 'setting the lonely in families' involve under the current circumstances? How can we continue to create opportunities for people to come together? What could you do?

*Catherine*



Rublev's icon, depicting Abraham's three mysterious visitors from this week's reading from Genesis

## Regular Services

To join any of our regular Zoom services, click on the links below. If you need a copy of the liturgy for any of the services, please contact the Church Office.

### Sunday Morning 10.30am (Morning Worship)

These services are alternating between a Breaking Bread service and a Morning Worship service.

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

The readings this Sunday are: Genesis 18.1-16 and Galatians 3.26-29

**Wednesday Morning Prayer 10.00am**—a short informal service lasting about 30 minutes

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

### Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm

Zoom link: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

[pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 2KrMnH

**If you would be willing to read or do the intercessions for any of our services please let Helen Hughes know at the Church Office.**

You can join any of the above meetings by phone using any of the following numbers and the meeting IDs and passwords above:  
0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240  
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874



## UCB Word for Today August-October

Copies of these will be in the church for you to pick up when the church is open for prayer on Wednesday or Saturday 11.00am-1.00pm.

## St Mary's Values

The sermons on our church values can be found on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3RShnzNqIS-bTomDxAxqJA> Feel free to share this link with any family or friends who might be interested in seeing what St Mary's are doing. We will also make some hard copies available to pick up from church during opening times on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

## Returning to Worship in Church

Please take time to read the information about the new service in church from the 2nd August. We will continue with our online worship, but there will also be a 9.00am Communion service in church, alternating between BCP and Common Worship. It would be a great help to have an idea of numbers likely to attend, so if you anticipate coming to this service, please let Helen Hughes know at the Church Office. Also, if you would be willing to volunteer as a welcomer, please let Helen know.

## Prayer Requests



Do let us know if there is anything you would like our church family to pray for.

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required

Tinned Spaghetti

Jam

Custard

Rice Pudding

Sponge Puddings/Slab Cakes

### For Children's Holiday Lunches

Tinned Chilli Con Carne

Tinned Mince Beef

Tinned Ravioli

Tinned Hotdogs

Tinned Fruit

Biscuits

Cereal Bars

### We have plenty of

Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Fish & Tea.

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am. If you are unable to bring donations to the Parish Rooms or to the drop-off points in our local supermarkets, please contact Catherine McBride or Carol Corney, who can arrange to have someone come and pick up your donations.

## Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

**Phone:** 01630 653505 **E-mail:** [stmarysmd@btinternet.com](mailto:stmarysmd@btinternet.com)

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Vicar:** Catherine McBride

**E-mail:** [vicar@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Phone:** 01630 656943

**If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.**