

10 January 2021:  
**The Baptism of  
Christ**  
Year B

The Parish of East Preston with Kingston

**St Mary the Virgin**

**NOTICE SHEET**



*We are indeed living in extraordinary times,  
and so sometimes this calls for extraordinary decisions...  
after much deliberation and seeking advice we've decided to*

**close St Mary's church with immediate effect.**

*This means there will be no services from now onwards (10 January services are cancelled), and the church will NOT be open for private prayer.*

*There is a worrying rise in cases in our area and an increasing number of our worshipping community are self isolating as the virus gets closer. I know this may come as a blow to some - and as a relief to others - but we think it is the right move to encourage the "stay at home" message and reduce the number of opportunities for the virus to spread.*

*The government are asking us to "behave as though we had the virus" (stay at home), and we think that closing St Mary's is a way of keeping people safer, so - bizarrely! - we are showing love for our community by staying away from each other!! These are the extraordinary times we are living in.*

*As in previous lockdowns we will go on line: Sunday mass will be live-streamed from the home of the clergy at 10am, and from Tuesday 12 January Morning Prayer will be live-streamed at 9am and Compline at 9pm.*

*We will re-instate the Virtual Coffee Morning on Zoom at 10am on Thursdays. The link will be available from one of the clergy. You can join by telephone too.*

*We regret finding ourselves in this situation, but think that closing is the least bad option. We will keep the decision to lockdown under review as government advice changes.*

*Stay safe.*

*Best wishes*

*Fr Andrew*

Many thanks to Jenny Bromfield and the Team (incl help from EP Flower Club) who are responsible for the wonderful **Christmas Flowers** in St Mary's!

Chris writes: '**Woody's Weekly Weigh-in** will now have to take a different form! We won't be allowed to meet weekly in the Church for a while, but if you have a set of scales at home, we can do it 'virtually.' All you need to do is to weigh yourself every Friday morning, and e-mail me or phone me with the result. I promise that your weight will not be shared with anybody!! I'll keep a record of everybody's progress, and at the end of the 10 weeks we can reveal how many pounds the group as a whole has managed to lose. There will be a £10 entry fee for the 10 week course, and if anybody would be kind enough to sponsor us (X-pence for each pound collectively lost by the group) please e-mail or phone me with your pledges! All funds go to St Mary's, of course, and all cheques made out to 'PCC of East Preston,' please. For all details, please contact me by e-mail at [chris.wood59@outlook.com](mailto:chris.wood59@outlook.com) or by phone on 01903 784206

**Food Banks** seem to be even busier during these uncertain days. We're supporting the Family Support Work Food Bank. There is a box in the Vicarage porch for donations. Thank you.

**Please remember in your prayers those in special need especially:** Gordon; Janet; Anne Langley; June Kirkham; Sue Ralph; Lucy Parkes; John Quigley; Sue Douglas; Kayley; Peter; John White; Angie Jackson.

**We remember those who've died recently:** Brenda Jones.

**and those whose anniversary falls this coming week:** Etheldreda Buckingham; Gwen Hinton; Sisters Monica, Ruth & Rosina of The Cross; Eric Johnson; George Stuttard; Barbara Chamberlain; Kenneth Miller; Mandy Paine; Kenneth Krelle; Ethel Franklin; Phyllis Banfield; John Williams; Margaret Payton; John Paget; Roy Oliver; David Farrant (priest).

*Fr Andrew is on annual leave from 8-15 Jan.*

**Next Sunday's readings** (17 January: Epiphany 2):  
I Samuel 3.1-10; Revelation 5.1-10; John 1.43-end

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[www.stmarysep.org.uk](http://www.stmarysep.org.uk) : [www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryseastpreston](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryseastpreston) (Monday is Rev Emma's day off: Friday is Fr Andrew's day off)  
St Mary's is a Registered Charity and our number is: 1180544