

Subject: St Bart's Anglican Church – corona update #6
From: St Bartholomew's Anglican Church <info.stbartholomews@gmail.com>
Date: 25/04/2020, 3:25pm
To: Info St Barts <info.stbartholomews@gmail.com>

Dear Friends

This is our sixth update from the island, and it is with a feeling of being blessed that we can report that there are now no cases of corona virus on the island, as the last person has been de-isolated (if that's even a word!). We will await to see how much life will get back to normal on the island after 11th May, when the lockdown regulations will be reviewed – both in France generally and perhaps specifically for the French islands/St Barts.

Our main news item this week includes the wind getting up – making swimming on the beaches a bit more lively. The wind would not have helped on Friday morning when I saw a BIG cloud of black smoke coming from Public. It turns out there was a fire at the garbage dump/recycling centre; but I am pleased to say that it was quickly brought under control with no significant long-term damage, and with only one slight burn injury. The quick response was impressive with Le Journal reporting that there were 25 pompiers in attendance (regular and voluntary)! The increased wind also meant, for the recording of our virtual service in the church, the rear shutters needed to be closed!

While I wouldn't usually comment on island rumours (you can imagine how many there are!), I did read on social media that people were getting cross about tourists being let onto the island. Le Journal reported that this was in fact just some visitors, who chosen to stay on-island in March, who had been sighted moving between villas with their luggage!

Our virtual Sunday service this week has a guest preacher – Father Steve Huber joining us from California*. We will also begin the service by singing Spirit of the Living God – just as we usually do; but the video version is with photographs of our beaches! And as a special treat we also have the sung version of The Lord's Prayer; as well as La Chorale singing on a video for the post-sermon meditation. Finally, we will close with one of our favourite hymns – The Lord of the Dance – albeit a choir sung version! The playlist link is set out below. (*Recorded on Zoom, so apologies for the slight sound delay!)

I have also included below a list of people whom we would like to ask you to pray for. You will recognise these names as we have been praying for them on Sundays during high season. If you would like to add anyone to our prayer list, please drop me a line.

Finding all the photographs of our beaches for this week's opening video inspired me to suggest that we may like to discuss our favourite beaches on St Barts during the virtual Zoom coffee hour at 10am every Sunday – please do join us (details below).

We are also continuing our Bestseller Book Group every two weeks on Mondays – again details below.

We continue to pray for all those in the caring professions, as well as all our many friends and their families, both near and far, to be protected – Stay Safe and Stay Strong!

With blessings
Philip

1. YouTube Channel: St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, St Barts
Low Sunday Playlist: https://bit.ly/StBAC_3rdEasterSunday

2. Prayer List

Brook Lacour

Lucy Day

Valerie Trangmar

3. Zoom meeting: Sunday 10am (*I will go online 5 mins early to help any first-timers!*)

Via the internet: <https://zoom.us/j/9713397133>

Via the Zoom App: Meeting ID: 9713397133

Via your telephone +1 253 215 8782 (USA) then input the Meeting ID: 9713397133

Password, if needed: 97133

4. Offering

If you would like to make an offering, please send cheques to:

Friends of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church

106 West River Road

Rumson

NJ 07760

or use our Website link

<https://www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com/donations/>

5. Bestseller Book Group – next meeting Monday, 4th May at 6pm

The Last of the Stanfields by Marc Levy

Marc Levy is a well known French author currently living in NYC (don't worry – the book is widely available in English). I would describe it as a humorous, slow-burning, literary thriller.

Here is the cover blurb: *Do we ever really know who is on our side? Eleanor Rigby is a journalist for National Geographic based in London. One morning, she receives an anonymous letter informing her that her mother has a criminal past. George Harrison is a carpenter who lives in Eastern Quebec. One morning, he receives an anonymous letter accusing his own mother of the exact same crimes. Eleanor Rigby and George Harrison have never met. The author of the anonymous letters gives them instructions to go to a bar in Baltimore harbour ...*

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