



**St Mary Magdalen Church,
Knighton**

Sunday 6th September 2020
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Join us in prayer this Sunday and through the week

Collect

*Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Amen.

Welcome back into St Mary's church building

Today we have our first service of public worship in the church building since March – it's good to be back! The guidelines we have to follow pose some challenges, but I'm confident that we can overcome them and begin the road back to worshipping together in the way we would like.

Next Sunday, 13th September we will have a Eucharist at 10am, and again things will be very different to our 'normal' service.

In order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat 40 individuals, small households or 'bubbles' safely at any one time. In order to manage cleaning after the service we are not opening the toilets at the moment, but we will review this for the future.

If you would like to attend on 13th please do phone the parish office (0116 270 2705) and leave a message which includes the names of any other people who will sit with you because you are in the same household or bubble.

Please be aware of these other changes:

- when you arrive you may have to queue for a while - please maintain a distance of 2m from others;
- please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own;
- you will be welcomed, asked to sanitise your hands, given a service sheet and directed to a seat - please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement;
- during the service we are not able to sing but there will be music and hymns to listen to;

- ◇ we can only offer Communion 'in one kind', that is, the bread but not the wine. Rather than come to the altar rail you will be asked to make one line in front of the priest, spaced 2m apart, and then receive your wafer;
- ◇ you should keep your face mask on until you have your wafer and then as you move away please consume the wafer moving your mask as little as possible;
- ◇ the priest will take extra precautions through the service to ensure that the wafers are protected from possible contamination, and will wear a mask when social distancing is not possible;
- ◇ we will be using the nave altar, in order to reduce movement about the church;
- after the service please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments;
- please take your service sheet home with you;
- you will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave;
- when we have all gone the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.;
- if you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message at the Parish Office so that we can inform others if need be.

I know that these requirements will make the service feel unusual and may indeed put you off, but please remember that God himself is not shaped by our circumstances! The world is an imperfect place and we are imperfect people but we can worship God in all situations and he is pleased when we do. This is our first step on the road towards a 'normal' worshipping life together and we should try to feel some joy as well as a

healthy awareness of all that we have to do to be safe.

Some other important dates:

- * the church building will be open for further services of Holy Communion on Sundays 20th and 27th September, at 10am.;
- * following his ordination as priest in the Cathedral on Sunday 13th September, Matthew will preside at a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm;
- * on Sunday 4th October we will celebrate our Harvest Festival (somehow!) and then have our Annual Church Meeting (postponed from April and looking back at 2019).

Meanwhile we will continue to produce our Virtual Worship each week and of course the Newsletter will be emailed or posted out to everyone for whom we have contact details and permission.

Best wishes

Adrian

Church Family News

Ros Matthew: You may have seen from the interview with Ros in last week's Virtual Worship that she is planning to return to Antigua full time in the near future. We may not have chance to see her in church but we will say a full and heartfelt farewell in the newsletter when she is ready to go!

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday 6th September are:

Romans 12:9-21

Love in Action

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 18.15-20

Dealing with sin in the church

¹⁵ If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if

they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that “every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ ‘Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.’

Reflection *by the Revd Adrian Jones*

A few days ago our son has started a new school – I’m glad to say that it’s all going well, but there are challenges too of course; a different layout, new rules, fresh expectations, and then social distancing and ‘bubbles’ as well. No surprise that he’s missing the familiar ways and safe routines of the old school.

We all have that tendency don’t we? It’s very tempting to look back with rose-tinted spectacles and yearn for things as they used to be. Perhaps a better way would be to resolve to let the past teach us and shape us, but not to hold onto it so tightly that we can’t grasp the new things God wants to give us.

Over the last 10 weeks or so I’ve been writing a series of reflections for the newsletter called ‘Holy Habits’, looking back in the Bible to the first church, as it’s described in the Book of Acts. I’ve been using Acts to help us identify the key characteristics of what it means to be the church in every generation... the people of God, living in and serving the world, sharing the story of all he has done, and following the way of Jesus. But I

know that I mustn't idealise the past - that backwards look has to run alongside an openness to God's future too.

Sam Wells, who is the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields, in Trafalgar Square, has written this:

"People talk as if Jesus and the early church lived an eternity ago and set everything in stone. But what if Jesus still lives today and the church still has thousands or millions of years ahead of it? Perhaps we are the early church, still haggling over the details, and rightly so."

He's right of course - the church is not set in stone... and we know sometimes change is forced upon us!

But God's good purpose for us remains constant. Through faith in Jesus Christ he wants us to live lives of active, practical, loving kindness to others. We read this in Romans 12 today: "Share with those in need show hospitality rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn... live in harmony... do what is right be at peace... feed your hungry enemy... overcome evil with good." All commands that are very practical and active aspects of love for others.

While the way we 'do church' is changing, and the way of being the church is changing, God's goodness remains constant however. Therefore the way we do life, our way of being a Christian, should remain constant as well.

As Romans shows us, it's simply the way of Jesus. It's the way of love, whatever the circumstances and whatever shape the church has to take. This is our calling amidst the uncertainties and changes of the pandemic world – a calling to love in action. Amen.

Ordinations 2020 Prayer Card

Please pray for all those to be ordained and especially those to be ordained in the diocese of Leicester at the Cathedral this September.

To be ordained priest on Sunday 13 September: Hazel Aucken, Ivan Bennett, Jon Berry, Wilma Colley, Sarah Collins, Mark Cooper, Matthew Gough, Ann Hall, Laura Jackson, Emily Sharman, Chris Szejnmann, Jon Tearne.

To be ordained deacon on Sunday 27 September: Nick Baker, Matthew Creber-Davies, Pauline Cummins, Paul Emberton, Ros Harper, Maria Jukes, Rob Leveritt, Dawn Matthew, Crystal McAllister, Biddy Saunders.

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for all your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants soon to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Amen.

Pray also for their families, friends and all those who will support them
Pray for the communities where they will serve their curacy and for their
training incumbents and context supervisors. Pray too for more voca-
tions to all kinds of ministry. What is God's plan for you?

Wanted! *New Church Wardens*

Essential Qualities

- a heart for St Mary's Church – the people and the building – and our community
- a belief that God's future for us is bright
- the ability to work with others (inc. the Vicar!)
- a commitment for 1-3 years.

It could be you! - What to do next

- talk to God
- talk to your friends
- talk to Ros Matthew, any previous Warden or to Adrian.

Wanted! *New PCC members*

Our Annual Meeting to elect Church Wardens and Church Council (PCC) members is scheduled for Sunday 4th October at 11.30am in the Church—God willing!

The PCC is the main decision making body in the parish and a portion of its members are elected every year, usually for a three year term. Its chief responsibility, along with the minister, is to promote the mission of God in our community, through outreach, service, worship and care for the buildings and resources entrusted to us.

At this point in the growth and development of St Mary's, with the challenges that we face following the pandemic, it is important that we have Church Council members who can reflect all the views and experiences of our congregation and wider church family. You do not need to be an expert in anything but you do need to have the best interests of the church and the community at heart, being willing to listen, discuss and make key decisions.

Please consider if this might be God's calling to you, or to someone you know. More details coming soon!

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (day off normally Friday)

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough 07754 961997

Email: revgough@gmail.com (day off normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough: 0116 283 7887

Email: aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Email: safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Revd Janet Gasper

Email: janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk 0116 288 9646

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Email: Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net 07515 752954

Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705

Email: office@knightonparish.co.uk

The Parish Office is now open again from 9.30am until 2.30pm, Tuesday to Friday. Please feel free to phone James or to email. If you need to visit the Office, please let James know you're coming and wear face coverings as per the Government guidelines. Thank you.

Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.

On-line worship Each Sunday we aim to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together.

Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 01162704272 or email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

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Please pray..... *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. "* (Ephesians 6.18)

Praying for the World: Please pray for all those who work against injustice and on behalf of those who find it difficult to make their own voice heard in society. Pray that we are all more ready to listen to each other.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for all those helping our diocese become 'greener'. Pray for a deeper appreciation of God's gifts to us in creation, that we may be better stewards of the natural world, for churches working towards an EcoChurch award and for our diocese's progress towards Eco-Diocese status.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Heddington Way, Ramsbury Road, Roehampton Drive, Heddington Close, Baldwin Road.

Praying for those in need:

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. Please do continue to pray for **Charlotte Muddimer, Gary Joynes, Anne Squires, Ed Groves, Bob Newell, Sue Holligan** and their families. We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends. We remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.