

# *This Week at St Mary's*

28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020

## HOW WILL IT FEEL BEING BACK IN ST MARYS?

This is new territory for us all. You may in the past have been somewhere which made it impossible to go to church, or perhaps unable to move from a hospital bed prevented you. But then you would have known that worship in your home church was going on.

Yes, we've had the online alternative, and I've been delighted by the response there's been to the broadcasts. Indeed, after 3½ months of them, I've 'grown accustomed to their face'! Preparing everything, ideally by Friday evening has made the weekends longer and more flexible.

I think, certainly initially, there is going to be new appreciation of how being in a church building can enhance worship. It's so easy to take one for granted. The new welcome poster at the door says, *..just being here seems to bring hope. There is so much which speaks (or more likely sings) out that God is right at the centre. It's as though the voices from the walls and the windows are all saying together - there is a bigger story, which has a good ending.*

The dimensions of the building are deliberately huge. The ancient columns are intended to raise our eyes upwards, into the heights of the roof - and beyond. Not so much that we think God is 'up there' as that He is described rightly by words such as majestic, almighty, glorious, holy and you'll think of others. The overarching word is TRANSCENDENT, that He is beyond our reach in every way.

St Mary's too is where we receive communion, together, in real time, Christ making Himself present in the sacrament. Utterly amazing, pure grace, He has come to us, he still does so. Assuming we do so on 5<sup>th</sup> July, it'll have been 16 weeks without. I can't wait.



**PRAYING TOGETHER** 6.30pm every Thursday join via skype for Evening Prayer. Contact Tom to be included on group list (it's fine to join in when you can.)

## UPON WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - William Wordsworth, Selected by Dick Davis

When I was a young boy, I was required to enter the school's poetry reading competition. Poetry was a totally alien language to me: my literary ambitions at the time were ripping yarns in comics like Wizard, Rover, Hotspur and Champion. Also I was rather shy, and paralysed by fear at the thought of standing up entirely alone in front of an audience and reading out loud - would I be struck speechless, stutter or start to mumble? With my father's help, I rehearsed endlessly Wordsworth's Westminster Bridge (a mixed blessing because his poetic compass was his recitation by heart at parties "Albert and the Lion" in a Stanley Holloway accent.)

The dread day arrived, and I reluctantly raised myself up before the chief judge, a famous actor. Miraculously as I started to speak, it all came out perfectly. I didn't win the competition, but in a way, I did win a prize, because Westminster Bridge has remained etched in my memory. When I see a fine view, the poem comes back to me, the emotion wells up inside me, and the occasional tear may appear on my cheek.

The poem is best read aloud, not given a silent speed-read. Experience the wonder that Wordsworth felt at the majestic view that was revealed suddenly to him. Be excited with the quickening pace as he recites the list of wondrous sights before him. Share the exquisite peace it brought him, with "all that mighty heart lying still".

*Earth has not anything to show more fair:  
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty:  
This City now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie  
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
Never did sun more beautifully steep  
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;  
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!  
The river glideth at his own sweet will:  
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;  
And all that mighty heart is lying still!*

**THE MEADOWS FOODBANK** - Buy each week an extra (non perishable) item as an act of self giving love, for someone you don't know. Particularly needed now: Shampoo, shower gel (women) & deodorant (men). Let Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 tony.m1941@icloud.com know when a few to collect.

## **BACK IN ST MARY'S FOR WORSHIP**

The announcement on Tuesday by the Prime Minister was expected but nonetheless most welcome. At the time of writing this, we are still waiting for the all important detail, how it can be done 'safely', which is expected before the weekend, therefore it should be included in the Notices on Sunday.

We have been anticipating this and discussing at the Worship Committee and then PCC. In summary, in the immediate,

1. We aim to have a service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's. This will be at 11.00, the same time as the broadcast has been.
2. There will be no live choir and insofar as someone speaking cannot be present, that can be pre-recorded.
3. The Service will be 'live-streamed'. Thus, for those unable to attend St Mary's, simply go to our website at 11.00. It will continue to be up on the website for future listening.
4. The Service will be in 2 parts. The first part will be very close to how the broadcast has been, except that the Lord's Prayer and final Blessing will be included in the second part. Some may choose to sign out at this point, but for those staying,
5. the second part will be the communion service from the 'Words of Comfort' (Come unto me...)
6. We aim to find a way so that all can at least receive bread.
7. Those participating at home may find it helpful to have out a piece of bread on a plate and a small glass of wine.

**LECTIO 365 PRAYER APP** daily devotional resource that helps deeper engagement with scripture and inspires prayer put together by Pete Greig founder of 24-7 international, interdenominational movement of prayer. It's free. Several of us are finding it inspirational..

**GIVING MONEY** - Best done online but cheque also welcome. Preferable from the church's viewpoint is a **Standing Order** (NatWest 560061 00834602) For **One-off donations**, use either the **QR code** or **Donate button** on the website. *Please continue (better still, increase) your financial support of St Mary's in this difficult economic climate.*

Wherever you are, we extend a very warm greeting to you, especially if you've recently discovered St Mary's

*St Mary's open for private prayer and reflection*

*11.00-3.00 each weekday*

**11.00am SUNDAY SERVICE - livestreamed**

*(See our website and follow the link, including for Order of Service)*

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks  
John Bowers  
Rosemary Clark  
John Conway  
Harry Palmer  
Mike Ridley

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