

# Welcome to St Mary's

Pewsheets for week commencing *10 January 2021*

## **Maggie writes about Church Opening and Worship during the current Lockdown**



During this lockdown public worship and the opening of the church for private prayer continue to be permitted. However, we are also allowed to cancel public worship if we think it advisable. The churchwardens have met with me and Michael. We understand more of our church members will be anxious about coming to church in the current situation with the increasing infection rate. Others will want to continue coming to services in the building very carefully if they can. We believe that no one should feel they need to apologise for their decision, about this, nor feel under any obligation to do something which doesn't feel right for them, even if they have previously been on the rota to take special roles in the services.

Therefore, we have decided that for the time being we will continue to offer services in church on Sundays and Thursdays while we keep the matter under review. But we shall be following government and church guidance very meticulously: this will mean that we must be much stricter with ourselves about not chatting to each other outside our household bubbles before or after services; so, for example, the clergy will no longer stand near the door at the beginning and end to greet people and registration of attendance will have to be done with strict social distancing. It really would help if as many as possible could use the NHS app to sign in. We generally must make sure we don't approach too near to each other while we are in church except for the moment when we receive communion under very careful conditions.

Services may become much simpler, with the clergy taking on reading and interceding if and when we aren't able to find volunteers for these roles. 10 am services on Sunday may sometimes be 'said', without music if we cannot provide it and we anticipate being able to operate without a full quota of sidespeople if we need to. But the atmosphere should still be prayerful and meaningful (as it always is at our 8 am and Thursday 10 am services).

Meanwhile, we hope to have persuaded Zoom of our charitable status soon, so we can afford a church licence with multiple users for Zoom services (and other meetings), and we hope this may be achieved by next week. When we can, we may also post the 10 am service on Facebook live for those who would prefer this way of joining-in. (We know this medium is far from perfect, but it has been appreciated by some as a way of keeping in touch. We shall be using it this Sunday.)

On weekdays we shall continue to keep the church open, strictly for private prayer, with improved signage about Covid precautions, and I would like to thank those who make this possible.

As I have said, we shall keep all this under review, and no doubt the PCC will discuss it when we meet on Thursday (14th), so 'watch this space'. We shall do all we can to keep in touch with each other. If you would like to chat with me or Michael at any time - it doesn't have to be about anything serious or urgent - do feel free to ring, and we will try to be ringing people ourselves just to keep in contact.

## ***Sunday, 10 January—The Baptism of Christ***

Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer). There is an order of service on the website.

10am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's and FB live service.

4.15pm SMYG (St Mary's Youth Group) Bake-off. Email [curate@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:curate@stmaryslinton.org.uk)

Tuesday, 12 January—7.30pm Space for the Spirit (via Zoom). Email [sfts@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:sfts@stmaryslinton.org.uk) for a link.

Thursday, 14 January—10am Holy Communion.

If there is someone or something you would like members of St Mary's to pray for, please send a prayer request to the Church Administrator. If you would like to talk confidentially to a member of the clergy, contact the Rector, Maggie Guite on 01223 890273 or the Curate, Michael Wilcockson on 01223 891005.

**Covid Prayer group:** It's sometimes hard to pray by yourself about all the pressing needs of the world. It can all get a bit overwhelming. If anyone would be interested in a weekly prayer group on Zoom to raise these things to God together, contact Gill Fraser Lee or Maggie Guite [rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk) to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

**'Daily Prayer from St Mary's Linton':** Maggie Guite continues to make a podcast each weekday morning on Spotify, Google Play etc and pastes it on the St Mary's Facebook Page.

### **For those without internet who are isolated – Daily HOPE Church of England.**

Available Free 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044. Prayer; online service; hymns.

**St Mary's Telephone Support Line** Tel 893687 [cathy.watts@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:cathy.watts@stmaryslinton.org.uk) For those requesting a call for themselves or others or willing to make regular phone calls.

### **Linton Community Help Team**

[lintoncommunityhelp@gmail.com](mailto:lintoncommunityhelp@gmail.com) If you do not have access to email phone 01223 901132 and leave a message. Please note we do not offer an emergency response service. We can help with Social contact/loneliness; Concerns around food and bills; Prescription collection; Shopping; Post office.

**Mental Health Resources** A new resource provided by mental health charity MIND. Also, mental health services can be accessed in this area by dialling 111 and selecting option 2 - direct contact with mental health professionals.

**TLG - Transforming Lives for Good** is a charity you will hear more of in the very near future.

**Emotional First Aid** is an easy-to-understand online webinar offered by TLG that equips people to support those struggling with their emotional and mental health as a result of this pandemic. This training is trauma-informed and will help both individuals and organisations to recognise and understand emotional signals and respond to them effectively. It is open to **anyone** in the church who wants to feel equipped enough to walk alongside those who struggle with mental health needs related to isolation, anxiety and poverty. You need to register here: <https://www.tlg.org.uk/your-church/emotional-first-aid>

To add to the pewsheets, or to receive it by email, contact Anne: [admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk) Information for pewsheets to be received by 11am Thursday.

**Thank you to all the flower arrangers** who not only give their time, but also gave generously towards the Christmas flowers. What sterling team work. A very big thank you and I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. Lian

**Reach Community Projects** Read the latest news [here](#). Donations of tinned or dried goods for the **Haverhill Foodbank** can be left in the box in the Tower vestry when the church is open.

**St Mary's Events' Quiz—Don't forget Entries close midnight Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

Available from [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk), Boswells Bakery and Sweet Talk News. Cost £2. Answer as many questions as you can to be entered in the prize (£25) draw. All proceeds will go to St Mary's.

### **In the meantime do join us —St Mary's Events' Virtual Quiz**

Following the success of a virtual quiz earlier in the year we are hosting a family friendly quiz **this Sunday 10th January 2021 at 3pm via zoom**. To receive zoom details please email [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk). The quiz will have a variety of rounds including nursery rhymes, films, literature and pictures. There is no entry fee for the quiz but donations to the church are always welcome.

**Children's Competition: Christmas Carols** We are inviting children to enter a drawing, painting or collage on a piece of A4 paper, with your child's name and age, the name of the carol and a contact number on the back. Post entries through St Mary's Church letterbox by **Sunday, 10 January**. Judging will be in three age groups (2-4, 5-7, 8-10 and 11+) with a prize for each one. Entries will be displayed in the church after the closing date.

### **Virtual Christmas Tree Festival. Voting is open until Sunday 10 January**

To vote please make a donation to the church by bank transfer (St Marys Church Linton P C C, 20-17-19, 90389277) and put as your reference 'tree' and your name. If you are unable to do a bank transfer let us know and we can advise on other ways to donate. Then email [events@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:events@stmaryslinton.org.uk) to let us know and we will send you a voting form. There will be a small prize for the tree with the most votes.

Granta Vale parishes (Abingtons, Balsham etc) are looking for a new **Parish Nurse** on the retirement of their Parish Nurse in December. See [Granta Vale website](#).

### **Parish Prayer Board on the website**

Subjects for prayer and thanksgiving mentioned in our prayers. Phone the Rector 890273 or email [admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk) with your request. Obtain permission for inclusion of names. Prayer requests are kept for 2 weeks and take the place of the prayer list in church. The Ministry Team are each praying for several in the congregation so that all those on the electoral roll are included.

### **Parish Prayer Board January 2021**

31 December 2020 - Please pray for Martin and Denise Thurston and all the family following the death of Martin's Mother, Lucy Thurston, on Christmas Day.

1 January 2021 - Please pray for Mary Wright, who had an operation on her leg before Christmas, which has left her with a lot of pain. She is due to have another operation on her arm on 5 January 2021. We ask for your prayers for the success of these ops, for relief of pain, and encouragement for her spirit.