

Welcome to St Mary's

Pewsheet for week commencing *17 January 2021*



Suspension of services in person in church

Last week, in response to a strong steer from our bishops, I suspended services in church for the time being because of the alarming number of cases of Covid 19 and the pressure on our hospitals, about which we hear in nearly every news bulletin. I was particularly bearing in mind how difficult it is for us genuinely to do 'social distancing' without our normal friendly interaction when we come to church; our habits of friendliness are too strong!

This decision was made for the whole Team of churches. However, it does need to be ratified by all the PCCs concerned and communicated to the Bishop of Ely. This morning (Thursday 14th) I met with my ministerial colleagues in the Team, and we agreed that we should recommend to all our PCCs this suspension of services, whilst promising that on Sunday mornings the bells would be chimed in all our churches just before 10 am to signify that clergy and LLMs were leading worship at that time in different ways, and inviting you to join from home. I believe that this decision will be ratified by the Team PCCs very shortly, and will be welcomed by many, albeit with a heavy heart. Although coming to church is very important to us, we all want to do our bit to stop the spread of the virus!

Zoom services at 10 am, accessible through the St Mary's Linton website, will resume this Sunday at 10am, whilst at the same time members of a clergy household will be in church celebrating the Eucharist and posting it on Facebook Live for those who might find this a more helpful way to join in worship. We shall also, once a month, put a Book of Common Prayer Eucharist on Facebook Live on the St Mary's page, as this is particularly meaningful to some of our church family. (This month this will be on January 24th at 8 am. but available to view thereafter as a post for 30 days.) All of these services will include Reflections or sermons on the readings of the week. The Zoom services will include hymns you can join in with at home if you wish.

We will also continue to send out the 'Virtual Worship' sheets, which will usually reflect the content of the Zoom services at 10 am. We are always glad to hear if there is anyone else who would like a Virtual Worship sheet delivered - perhaps someone in the wider community. who might not normally come to church. Do suggest them to people who might otherwise be too reticent to ask. Please contact Anne admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk or me (tel.890273) if you or someone you know would find a written order of service helpful.

We are not currently planning to offer an online version of our Thursday Eucharist, but if members of that very faithful congregation would like to worship at that time, I encourage them either to follow the Facebook Live service which was posted the previous Sunday, or the Virtual Worship sheet.

It is my hope that through all these different means members of our Team churches will continue the round of worship and prayer which we offer on behalf of all our communities, as well as retaining a real sense of being linked to each other. We look forward to the day when we can all worship 'face to face' again.

I am also grateful to Sarah Thorne and members of our Children and Families Team who send out worship materials for families, and who intend to make the material more suitable for adults, too. Look out for information about 'Lent in a bag', and ask to be included if you think you would find it helpful.

Maggie Guite

Currently the church open daily for private prayer only.

M-F 9.45am-3pm; Sat 10am-12noon; Sun 2-4pm

Sunday, 17 January—The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-end

10am Service via Zoom and FB live service from St Mary's. Zoom registration details will be on the web-

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.

'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 For those requesting a call for themselves or others or willing to make regular phone calls.

Linton Community Help Team

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>

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](#).

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.

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 to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

Christmas Events: Winners. The winner of the **paper quiz** is Lawrence Powell. The answers will be on the website soon. The Foote family were the winners in the **Family Quiz** last Sunday. The winner of the **Virtual Christmas Tree Show** is Megan Till (entry no 9 on the website). **Children's Competition**—we have three winners: Eddie aged 5 with Away in a manger; Eliza Rayment-Hinde aged 2 with Little donkey and Heidi Saddleton aged 10 with Hark the herald angels sing. Their entries will be on the church noticeboard. Thank you very much to all who took part and contributed. We have raised £422.25 for Church funds.

Messy Church Sarah Thorne has prepared a resource for [Messy Church at Home](#).

Sarah is also asking for any old Christmas cards with a picture of Mary and baby Jesus (Madonna and child – type). If you can help, please contact [Sarah](#) and she will collect (on her daily exercise walk) Many thanks.

Mothers' Union members will meet by Zoom on Monday 18th January at 7.30pm. Catherine Richardson will speak about her trip to southern India which was organised by the Diocese. Catherine's talk was originally scheduled for last spring. We can accommodate some guests - please contact Sue Mudge if you would like to receive the Zoom link - 01223 892737.

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 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.

12 January 2021 - Please pray for the care home where Andrew King is a resident and where they now have a case of Covid.

'This is a text I've had as a member of the Patient Participation Group (PPG). The actual wording hasn't been approved by Granta Medical Practice (GMP), but is an accurate record of the discussion between the GMP and the Chairs of the PPG. Rather than wait for official approval, I thought people would like to know what's happening now. Molly Warrington'

Granta Medical Practices (GMP) and vaccinations against Covid-19.

We have had a discussion with Granta Medical Practices to try to find out what is planned by way of vaccinations delivered by GMP. By the time that you read this we hope that the roll out is well underway.

As you are hopefully aware, vaccinations in our Practice are intended to start the weekend of January 16/17 and it is anticipated that this will be the start of a regular weekend provision.

The Practice is, however, unable to request batches of vaccine from NHS England or to request specific vaccines. These are allocated via the Clinical Commissioning Groups as they become available hence forward planning is extremely difficult. We understand that the precise allocation may not be known until the day before dispatch.

This means that GMP cannot contact patients to invite them for vaccination until it knows how many doses will be provided and on what dates.

Initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine were made available to areas of highest infection, including Peterborough, and to Addenbrookes Hospital, centres able to handle the ultra low temperature storage needed. In the past few weeks, many Granta patients over 80 years old have been vaccinated at Addenbrookes.

GMP vaccinations are being carried out at Sawston which has been set up as our vaccination hub. It is being staffed by both Practice staff and additional clinically trained volunteers. Appropriate space is needed as patients are requested to stay for 15 minutes for observation after being vaccinated.

Vaccinations are being administered according to the priority list published by the the Joint Committee on Vaccination and immunisation (JCVI) and are being restricted to weekends to avoid any impact on the provision of Primary Care services by Granta staff.

Patients will be invited for vaccination by text or telephone and should not pre-empt an invitation by phoning or emailing the practice.

GMP are handling hundreds of phone calls a day, 1500 of them on January 11th, half of which were vaccination enquiries.

Warning: if you are contacted by someone concerning your vaccination who asks for your name, address, or other personal information, it will not be from the NHS.

As a registered patient, GMP have your contact details.

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