

# St Mary's Newsletter 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

As usual, this is in hard copy, via email & on the church website: <https://www.stmarysacocksgreen.org>

**St Mary's 10am Sunday Service will be recorded & added to YouTube later that day.**

**You will be able to get the direct link from my Sunday email, from the website, or by going to St Mary's Acocks Green channel on YouTube and selecting the playlist – it includes two hymns.**

**If you are not attending the services - either wait for this link or use the sheets to say a service at 10am.**

---

## Service + Collect & Readings on separate sheets

### Hymns for the week:

There's a wideness in God's mercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kamADrIPEDs>

We have a gospel to proclaim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5wWRYq57EM>

### The Thought

The Bible can be seen as a very heavy, distant book. Not if you look at the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They recount the stories of Jesus to encourage us to follow him and to keep on following him. Today we think about St Luke, who wrote one of the most warm, human and accessible Gospels. St Luke is often known as 'the Beloved Physician'. He was a Greek doctor, disciple of St Paul and his companion on a number of his missionary journeys. Luke wrote the third Gospel in our New Testament and although some of the stories of Jesus he uses can also be found in Matthew and Mark, Luke puts his special slant of care upon them. Luke is responsible for filling in the details of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. He gives us the journey, the stable, the angels, the shepherds. He gives us the caring parables of the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son, and Jesus' words to the Good Thief on the Cross. Women, sinners, the poor and down-trodden all feature more in Luke's Gospel as people whom Jesus really cares about. All of this, and dropping in accurate elements of detail which have been backed up by recent archaeology and historical findings.

Luke was a doctor and care runs through his very nature, so he notices and points out Jesus' care and therefore God the Father's care for us all. Luke draws us into the events so descriptively, we also want to be followers of the God who became one with us. He is a painter of words, and has become not only the patron saint of doctors and surgeons but also of artists. Luke not only wrote his Gospel, but also its sequel 'The Acts of the Apostles', the story of the early Church after Easter and the Ascension. For some of it, he is recounting his own story. In today's first reading from Acts, for instance, Luke writes: '...we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.'

The Good News of Jesus Christ was vitally important to Luke, so much so that he left his home and his original vocation to journey hundreds of miles, facing dangerous sea crossings and hostile peoples, to tell others about Jesus Christ the Son of God, and how he has won for all people their salvation. May Luke speak to you across the centuries to be relevant today, that you may follow in his saintly footsteps in faith, and in willingness to tell others of that faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Intercessions

Thinking of gospel-writer St Luke, thank God for the witness of the saints in their words and deeds, for Bible translators and for all who research God's word. We also remember Luke as a caring physician and thank the Lord for doctors and nurses throughout the ages who have brought care to all who need comfort and healing.

Pray for all who organise safeguarding in our churches. May each of us help to make St Mary's a safe place to worship. Pray for all communities across Europe as our governments put new restrictions in place. Lord, calm fears and be present with the lonely. Grant initiative to business owners, patience and generosity to landlords, and wherewithal to those who have lost their jobs.

Pray for the work of the United Nations and International Red Cross especially as they supervise peace talks and exchange of prisoners, particularly in the Yemen and Armenia/Azerbaijan conflicts. Remember ordinary people caught up in these wars.

Pray for the Sick, especially.... **Jeff Seeney, Neville Round, Stella Skillen, Pat Kennedy, Rev John Self, Rev Bill Sands, Irene Storm, Christina Hanson, Mary Wood, Susan and Doreen Draper, Susan, Dean Prentice, Waj Murad, Muriel Cook, Sue & Roger Peckett, Hazel King, Jean Myers, Maxine Powis, Robert Smith, Peter, Jean & Denis Ward, Mike Kidd-White, Lynn, Evie-May Flowers** and others we call to mind.

And recently Departed..... **Beryl Tompkins and Michael Whitehouse.**

And Year's Mind ..... **Lydia Coley, Winifred Gilbert**

## TODAY'S SERVICES

**Birmingham is placed in Tier 2 restrictions.** Places of worship can remain open, although there should be no mixing between households inside. Please can I remind you to use hand sanitiser, wear a face mask, observe a 2m distance and talk outside in groups of no more than 6, or on the phone.

**Test & Trace** - After you have filled in a form, we just need a tick on the booking sheet each week.

**QR CODE** - We now have our own QR code for you to check in with the NHS App if you have it.

**YouTube recording** -The 10am service is being recorded, please let us know if you do not want to be included.

### Organ Music

**Organist** – Folk Tune: *P Whitlock*, Chorale Prelude Herzlich thut mich verlangen ('My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God'): *Bach*, The Lord's my shepherd: *Schubert*, G minor prelude (from the 8 short): *Bach*  
Gillian Bullock

### Holy Communion

Please wear your face mask, use hand sanitiser (either your own or from the back of church) & keep 2m distance as you come up to receive (bread only).

### St Mary's Family News

**Birthdays** Oct 21<sup>st</sup> David Streeter and Margaret Endsor, Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Hugh Kennedy

**Beryl Tompkins' Funeral** is on Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup> Oct) at 11am. NB. All places are taken, so please remember Beryl, Julie, David and the family in your prayers, and think about them at the time of the funeral.

**\*\*Cleaning next Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 10am** - to help, call the Vicar on 0121 706 9764.

**Next Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Holy Communion (said) 10am & 11am** - **\*Please book by Friday**

**\*\*St Mary's AGM – is NEXT SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon in church.**

Those attending last week should already have an AGM booklet.

More are available at the back of church. - Do bring yours to the meeting!

Please read these reports so that the AGM can be short. **EVERYONE'S WELCOME!!**

**!! Macmillan – A Big Thank you for all your donations. A huge £371.50 has been raised!!**

**Christmas Shoe box Appeal** – please refer to [www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com) which leads you to donations to the appeal – or - you can give money for items or postage to Viv (608 1895 – Or mob: 07969 385 214). This Appeal concludes on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**\*\*Leah Simons is selling knitted Poppy Broaches at £2 each** – proceeds split between the Poppy Appeal & St Mary's - please contact Toria at [stmaryspoppies@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryspoppies@yahoo.com) to buy.



**In Memoriam** This will be a recorded service uploaded to YouTube on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> for funeral families & St Mary's. If you would like a departed loved one's name read out, please email/phone/hand name on paper to Fr Andrew or the stewards before 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **(NB – only those names submitted will be read out.)**

**Home-made (incl. Christmas) cards** - See Andrew Norris & he will bring your order to church next week.

**Nifty Needles** (a group who knit for charity) are in need of wool. If you have any that you do not need and can spare, please give it to Andrew Norris who will pass it on to his mother. Thank you.

**Church Finances** – **\*\*Thank you for continuing to help our church to pay its way!!\*\***

**Stewardship Envelopes** - There will be a collection at church on Sunday or deliver them to the Vicarage.

**Cheques** are payable to 'St Mary's PCC' & **paying online by BACS**, 'St Mary's Parochial Church Council' bank details are: **Barclays Bank, Solihull Branch Sort Code: 20-77-62 Account No: 53215512**

**Please continue phone contact with your St Mary's friends and reassure them with your prayers.**

**For further support, please ring Fr Andrew on 0121 706 9764 (answerphone available)**