

St Mary's Newsletter 13th September 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 not sung in church.

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:

Make me a Channel

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

At the Name of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI2rKRCWmOU>

The Thought

It is so easy to judge others. We have our own way of justifying it to ourselves. Perhaps it makes us feel better about our inadequacies if others' faults and failings are 'greater'. We don't make allowances for them, often because we do not know what they are going through and cannot put ourselves in their shoes. Now that's people we don't know. Those we judge among our friends and family we know well, that's worse! If they have wronged us in some way, those offences are harder to ignore, even though, with a bit of thought, we probably do know where they are coming from. No, the offence stays around, irritating and niggling us. It's easy to judge, far more difficult to forgive. Lack of forgiveness can be so corrosive and destructive. It can drive a wedge through friendships and families, and with each 'side' being stubborn and intransigent, tendered olive branches are few and far between! These readings have forgiveness running through them and set, dare I say, a higher standard for us to follow than we may be used to, requiring from us a greater willingness to forgive *anyone* who may have wronged us in any way! Joseph's brothers were guilty of beating him up, imprisoning him and selling him into slavery. They even lie to get themselves off the hook with Dad. But Joseph sees all of the events as part of God's plan, so he generously speaks kindly to his brothers and promises his care for them.

St Paul wants Christians to make allowances for other believers' understanding of life. Let them think their way; so what if it is different to yours. Whatever they and you do, do it in the best way possible for the Lord. If you judge... careful! 'For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God...(and)... each of us will be accountable to God.' Jesus then sets the divine standard for forgiveness. Not as Peter suggests, seven times for an offending believer, but seventy-seven times. To illustrate, Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant who owes a king an impossible amount of money, worth billions of pounds today. The king forgives the debt, until he finds out that the same servant will not forgive a few thousand pounds owed to him, so then restores the original punishment: debtors' prison! Jesus says God will do the same to us if we 'do not forgive our brother or sister from our hearts'.

We owe God our very created and heavenly lives. Despite our sinfulness and dark ways, he has forgiven us totally through the merits of His Son Jesus Christ. The least we can do in loving response is to forgive others!

Intercessions

Thank God for his love which forgives again and again, and pray that, in response, we may all grow expansive, forgiving hearts. Pray for St Mary's and the Church around the world which meets in so many different ways: in church buildings, online and through prayer.

Remember our Government, Parliament and the Lords, especially in decision making about Covid-19, lockdowns and Brexit negotiations. May decisions be clear and fair to everyone.

Pray for our city in the aftermath of knife attacks and continuing virus restrictions.

Remember all refugees' pressures and difficulties, especially those whose camps burnt down in Lesbos, Greece; and pray for the safety of all suffering amidst the Californian Wildfires.

Pray for the Sick, especially.... **Pat Kennedy, Rev Bill Sands, Irene Storm, Pat Mudway, Christina Hanson, Mary Wood, Susan and Doreen Draper, Susan, Dean Prentice, Beryl Tompkins, Waj Murad, Muriel Cooke, Sue & Roger Peckett, Hazel King, Jean Myers, Maxine Powis, Robert Smith, Peter, Jean & Denis Ward, Mike Kidd-White, Colin Cardinal, Lynn, Evie-May Flowers and others we call to mind.**

And recently Departed..... **Jeff Croft and Clive Rees.**

And Year's Mind **Carol Brookes, Eric Trimm, John Mudway, Frances Calcutt and Val Chadd**

TODAY'S SERVICES **Please use hand sanitisers, wear a 'mask' and observe 2m distance**

****Face Coverings** – must now be worn by law by all those attending a place of worship.

Test & Trace - *After you have filled in a form, we just need a tick on the booking sheet each week to say that you consent to your details being held for 21 days.*

YouTube recording - The 10am Sunday service is being recorded, to be put up on YouTube later in the day, together with additional music. The majority of the recording will be action at the front of church, but do let Fr. Andrew or the Stewards know if you do not want to be included.

Organ Cavatina: *Stanley Myers*, Voluntary VII: *W.G.Alcock*, Offertoire: *Caleb Simper*,
Nuns Chorus: *Johann Strauss* Organist – *David Streeter*

Instructions for the administration of Holy Communion

****Please wear your face covering to come up for Holy Communion****

Everyone to use hand sanitiser before receiving - either their own or from back of the church.

All people in main body of the church to receive bread only, standing at the front on the carpet.

Beginning with the Right-hand side,

***Those in the side aisles**

go to the back via the side aisle, (use the sanitiser), walk down the centre to receive, return via the side aisles.

***Those in the centre**

go to the back using the side aisles if you need hand sanitiser, then walk down the centre; otherwise, keeping 2m distance, step onto the carpet and come to the front, returning to your seat via the side aisle.

Left-hand side follow in the same way. *Those in the choir stalls will receive behind the altar.

***At the end of the service** – *Use the Hand Sanitiser, wear your Mask, Exit via the South Door, Move Away from the Church & keep 2m social distance at all times*

Dates for your Diary – **PCC at church** – next Sunday 20th September at 12 Noon
Harvest Festival – Sunday 4th October at 10am & 11am

Harvest – Packetted & Tinned Adult & Baby Food (+ nappies/toiletries donations) - to support the Foodbank and Mother & Baby Home would help. Please bring to church Saturdays (10-11.30am) or Sundays 10am & 11am before 4th October so a display can be put together. No fresh food this year please!

St Mary's Family News

Birthdays - Claire Worrall 19th September (40!)

Michael Brailsford - has been chatting to Canon Kate on the phone and sends his love and prayers to all.

Jeff Croft RIP - Jeff's funeral is on Tuesday, 22nd September at Lodge Hill Crematorium.

Please remember Heather, James, Susan and the family in your prayers.

Cleaning next Saturday 19th September, 10am - to help, let the Vicar know on 0121 706 9764 .

Next Sunday 20th September - Holy Communion (said) 10am and 11am - ***Please book by Friday with Fr Andrew.** With permission, we will be recording attendees' names & contact numbers.

Home-made cards - See Andrew Norris to buy his cards (Christmas cards now available too) & he will bring your order to church next week.

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)