



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Trinity

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing this on the day we remember the Birth of John the Baptist, 24 June, which means that it is six months until Christmas Eve! It also means we are also six months from the last Christmas Eve which feels that it took place both 5 minutes ago and 25 years ago. Who knows how things will look this Christmas? I hope and pray that we shall be singing carols around the tree with hundreds of people, accompanied by the East Peckham Silver Band, before going into church and celebrating Midnight Mass. Recent events have taught us that we must aim for that, but be prepared for things to be different.

You doubtless heard on the news that the Government has given permission for Churches to re-open for collective worship from 4 July, although we still await detailed guidance on what such worship will actually look like. This followed closely on the heels of us (by which I mean Barbara Smith) carrying out a 'risk assessment' for what opening the church for private prayer would look like. In short, it showed that a significant amount would need to be done to get the church physically ready, most of which might need to be done again or done differently for collective worship. You have also doubtless heard that the PM changed the physical distancing from 2m to the rather more nebulous 1m+, and changes like that, coming thick and fast do not exactly help in planning. Further, the physical layout for personal prayer (with chairs removed and areas roped off) is quite different from what we may need for collective worship.

Anyway, the churchwardens and I have had a discussion about the timing and practicalities of opening St Mary's again for collective worship. We have decided that, rather than trying to re-open quickly and in circumstances where the goalposts keep moving, we would rather set a date a bit further ahead, which would give us the time and the resources to do it properly. It would also mean that if heaven forbid, there were to be a 'second wave' in the short term that we haven't played a part in that and are having to open and close again quickly.

The plan is, therefore, that St. Mary's will open again for collective worship on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. In the lead up to that date, we will be seeking volunteers to come and help with cleaning things and, possibly, moving things so please watch this space. In the interim, over the summer, we shall continue with both our live services on Facebook during the week and with Zoom church on Sundays. We are also upgrading the broadband service in the church (which turns out to be cheaper) which will enable us to stream some services from there during the summer and will assist us in being more 'online' even when we are back in church regularly.

Please put Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September in your diary, at least in pencil, for St. Mary's to reopen again and let's plan to make it a real celebration.

God bless,

Paul

### *Parish News*

**July and August Services** A list of all livestreamed services for July and August is available on the website or [here](#).

**Sunday 10am Eucharist for the third Sunday of Trinity** In order to get the service started on time, do feel free to start joining from about 9.50am onwards. This will be conducted from the Vicarage. The order of service will appear on the screen as we go, and is also available on the church website or [here](#). If you have not received the invitation contained in an email from Paul, please let him have your email address.

**Intercessors and Readers** If you would like to lead the intercessions or read a lesson during our Zoom Sunday services, please contact Janice who is drawing up a rota for the next two months.

**Zoom Coffee.** We are planning to have coffee 'virtually' between 11.00am and 12.00pm again this Sunday after the service, via Zoom. If you would like to join us, the link will be the same as for the 10am service.

**Financial giving.** Thank you to all who are continuing to give to St. Mary's at this time. Your contributions are vital to maintaining ministry and meeting ongoing costs. If you would like to give on a regular basis, a standing order with your bank would be much appreciated. Please contact me on [mhmassy@btinternet.com](mailto:mhmassy@btinternet.com) or 07725 603952 for further details, or if you would like to give by cheque or have your envelopes collected. Martin Massy – Treasurer

**Collect for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Trinity**

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

**Today's Readings**

Romans 6. 12-end  
Matthew 10. 40-end

**Next Week's Readings (Trinity 4)**

Romans 7. 15-25a  
Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end

**Prayers for the Week**

**We pray for all those living in:**

Twyford Road and Tainter Road

**At the first anniversary of their wedding we pray for**  
Jamie and Laura

**From our Book of Remembrance we pray for:**

Patricia Robinson (29<sup>th</sup>)  
Mick Giles (2<sup>nd</sup> July)  
Patricia Ann Austin (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
George Temperley Kirk (4<sup>th</sup>)

*If you would like a loved one added to the Book of Remembrance, please contact Janice on [office@stmaryshadow.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryshadow.org.uk)*