



## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I hope you have had a good week and have sufficient supplies of facemasks in order to go to the shops next week. Personally I find it a bit odd that we were not doing this months ago, when the death toll was 10 times higher than at present, but if it slows or prevents a 'second wave' so we must do what we can.

This week, I am sorry to say, that I have to start with some sad news. Antony Le Fleming, our esteemed Director of Music and Organist, has tendered his resignation on health grounds. Antony joined St. Mary's in January 2015, so five and a half years ago now, and has achieved great things in that time. I know I have said this before but I have had the privilege of sitting close to the choir during some Choral Evensongs and other concerts and been transported to some heavenly places by both the music and the singing. Antony is not only a great musician but a true gentleman and it has been a delight to work with him during this time. I would like to express my thanks to him but, I am sure, the thanks of us all at St. Mary's for everything he has done. Although Antony has stepped down from his position I hope that he may be able to play for us on an occasional basis and I hope that he and Naomi may worship with us in the future. Thank you, Antony and God Bless to you both!

Naturally Antony's departure raises the question of 'what next' for our musical life at St. Mary's. Being a musical and choral church is a large part of our identity and I would be distraught to see that go. However, we do find ourselves in a different landscape from even only a year ago and so we must plan the future with care. We shall start this process at the PCC meeting on Monday but it will include the choir and the whole congregation as we go forward as it is important that we all 'buy into' whatever comes next. In the meantime, we have a reprieve as we are not allowed to sing in church anyway but we have to lay the groundwork for a future which includes singing.

Talking of laying the groundwork for the future this week has seen some positive developments in getting us back into St. Mary's. On Tuesday the new fibre broadband was turned on and on Wednesday I was able to celebrate communion in the Lady Chapel again and broadcast this on Facebook live. Also on Wednesday, our doors were open for private prayer for the first time and a good number of visitors joined us, including a couple who were married in St. Mary's 20 years ago that day and who were delighted to find it open. Martin Massy also built and installed a dispenser for hand sanitizer, which is operated by a foot pump, and which works very well provided you remember to put your hands under the dispenser before pressing the pump!

Next week St. Mary's will be open for private prayer on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm**. Do feel free to pop over, say hello to me and spend some time in prayer back in our beautiful building.

This Sunday, and all future communion services, will be streamed from St. Mary's (rather than from my study) which I hope will help us start to move back into that space, even if only psychologically for the next several weeks. I will continue to do morning and evening prayer and compline (with the able assistance of Kelly as part of her training) from my study for the time being.

God bless,

Paul

### *Parish News*

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

**Sunday 10am Eucharist for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity** In order to get the service started on time, do feel free to start joining from about 9.50am onwards. The order of service will appear on the screen as we go, and is also available on the church website or [here](#). If you are not on the email mailing list for the Zoom invitation, please let Paul have your email address.

**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.

**Wanted: more volunteers for Zoom Intercessions and Readings** 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 August.

**Food Bank** A reminder that we are there for those in need. If you know of any person or family who might be in need of food support, please do not hesitate to refer them to Paul.

**East & West Peckham Pilgrimage Trail** As lockdown eases, and the need to get out and about increases, why not pack a picnic and walk East & West Peckham's own pilgrimage trail. This signposted circular 7 mile walk ambles gently between Holy Trinity Church in Bush Road, East Peckham to St Dunstan's in West Peckham to St Michael's, East Peckham's old church on the hill. The walk makes use of quiet country roads and public footpaths and passes close-by the (hopefully open) Bush, Blackbird & Thrush and the Swan on the Green pubs. For further details of the walk with map and guide visit: <https://britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/east-west-peckham-pilgrimage-trail/>. Sadly, the trail does not come through Hadlow!

**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

**Libraries Update** From Monday 13 July, KCC will be opening 12 libraries, Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm. This includes Tonbridge Library, but not Hadlow. Limited services will be available, including pre-bookable computers and WiFi but not bookshelf browsing. Meantime, from 7 July books can be borrowed via a Select and Collect service where orders can be made online and over the phone, allowing customers to pick up their items from one of the 12 libraries at an agreed date and time.  
Subject to government guidelines, additional libraries will be opened over the coming months providing further services, including bookshelf browsing.

### **Collect for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity**

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen

### **Today's Readings**

Genesis 28: 10-19a  
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

### **Next Week's Readings (Trinity 7)**

1 Kings 3: 5-12  
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

### **Prayers for the Week**

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

The High Street, the Castle and the Square

#### **We pray for those who have recently died:**

Grace Burrows  
David Gibbins

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

Kate Large (23<sup>rd</sup>)  
Rosemary Carter (23<sup>rd</sup>)

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

