

*St. Lawrence Church & St. Mary's Church
Newsletter 22nd March 2020*

Mothing Sunday

Website www.gnosallparish.org.uk. & Facebook WWW.facebook.com/GnosallParish



When we look at a painting we see the background and the foreground. The foreground is what we see first but as we look more closely we begin to see all the things going on behind. We see the bigger picture. Our foreground right now is the frightening possibilities coming from the news reports that we're hearing about every day. Our foreground right now is the virus and all the affects that this still might have on our society, economy, and day-to-day living. This is the foreground. But we must remember, it's only the foreground! Jesus recognizes both the foreground and the background of life. Right now he's very aware of our immediate cares but he wants us to see the big picture. People ask 'what is Jesus doing in all this?' Maybe he wants us to see the background as well as the foreground. To see the big picture. Some people say something had to happen to stop us in our tracks – to stop us from bringing total destruction on the world he made; to help us to re-adjust our priorities. For hundreds of years public worship has been offered in our churches week by week. Believers have come to church through war, plague and many other disasters. The background is generations of prayer, worship and faithfulness and even more, on a God who sees, who hears, who knows, who cares, and who supplies. Peter says in 1 Peter 5:7? "Cast all your anxieties upon him for"—here's the reason—"he cares for you." This is the background to our life—the sovereign care of our heavenly Father.

The Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Psalm 34:11-20

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus replied, 'Do what you came for, friend.' Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, 'Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Year's Mind

Edna Chesters
John Williams
Peter Herbert Forrester
Cyril Jenkins (Priest)
Edward (Ted) Bodley
Derek William Gardiner
John Graham Jones

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

While our worship on Sunday in church is suspended our income will reduce by about £1,000 per month.

Could I suggest that people may continue giving by one of the following methods:-

- Delivering their weekly envelope to the Vicarage,
- Making a monthly donation on line,
- Setting up a monthly standing order or
- Making contactless payments in Church.

If you would like help in any of these procedures please contact me at johnbridgeexpert@gmail.com on 07973778914 or contact Rev Kathryn

Rector Rev Kathryn Hammond - 822820
rev.kathrynh@gmail.com

Associate Priest Rev Cathy Dakin - 07971101259
cathydakin@waitrose.com

Churchwardens: Bob Winfield - 822507
bobwinfield1897@gmail.com

Eric Henderson - 823881
eric.henderson2@btinternet.com

PRAYER CHAIN

Please remember that we have a prayer co-ordinator who every fortnight sends around names of people to be included in our prayers. If you would like to receive this list then please contact Hayley

h_a_p@hotmail.com



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

If you wish to have anything included in the Church Newsletter please let Jim McGregor have it by the Wednesday of the previous week.

Tel 01785 822156 or email jimf.mcgregor@tiscali.co.uk

WINNERS OF MARCH DRAW



£25	Robert Harris
£15	Jim McGregor
£10	Jo Bowers
£5	Elizabeth Dale

CORONAVIRUS – WHAT DOES THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SAY-

In a joint letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice. But they said that far from having to “shut up shop”, the Church of England must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others.

It comes after the Government announced unprecedented peacetime measures to try to control the spread of the virus, with restrictions on public gatherings, transport and working.

The Archbishops expressed the desire that church buildings may, where practical, remain open as places of prayer for the community, observing social distancing recommendations.

They also invited clergy to maintain the ancient pattern of daily prayer and, where possible, the eucharist – live streaming their worship if they have the resources to do so.

“Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead,” they wrote.

“Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day.

“We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.

“Please do carry on supporting the local food bank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure the night shelters wherever possible are kept open.

There are many very encouraging schemes happening right across our country in communities to focus on caring for the most vulnerable and do continue to play your part in those.

“Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.”

They added: “This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly are a church for all, or just the church for ourselves.

“We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

The archbishops have joined other church leaders in calling for a day of prayer and action this Sunday (Mothering Sunday) particularly remembering those who are sick or anxious and all involved in health and emergency services.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR OUR CHURCHES?

We will be suspending public worship in all of our churches for the time being.

We want all our church buildings to be open for people to come and pray and find sanctuary.

Our clergy will be offering worship through daily prayer and the eucharist in our churches and some of these acts of worship will be recorded and sent to those able to access them.

Funerals will still take place in church with close family present and without organists or vergers. We will offer services of thanksgiving at a later date for those who wish to do that. Weddings and baptisms may still take place with very close family only.

Our church is still here – our clergy and church leaders are still here but most of all *Since God is in her midst, she will not be shaken.*

“Every hand we don’t shake must become a phone call we make,”

Every inch and every foot of distance we put between ourselves and another must become a thought about how we could help that other should the need arise.”

PLEASE TRY TO TAKE THIS SHEET TO ANY MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY WHO AREN'T ABLE TO ACCESS IT ELECTRONICALLY.