

# St Margaret of Antioch Ilford

## Weekly Newsletter Sunday 28 June 2020



### Worship returns to St Margaret's (?)



Tuesday's *Evening Standard* (left) captures the government announcement that from 4 July several lockdown measures will be eased. Included in the measures is that places of worship (of all faiths) can again be used for acts of worship. This is not a requirement, but it becomes permissible. Undoubtedly different places of worship will re-open for communal worship at different times over the coming months.

My *hope* is that on Sunday 5 July it will be possible once again to hold our Sunday Eucharist at St Margaret's. However, the government's ability to generate attention grabbing

headlines is equalled by a frustration at the slowness of their publication of their guidance guidelines detailing what criteria will need to be met before acts of worship can take place. Now a week before acts of worship can take place in churches, we still await the government guidance! So ..... my hope remains a hope.

Like every other aspect of life, worship is going to have to be different from what we were used to in the pre-Covid-19 world, at least initially, and there will be restrictions on what we can do. It is widely reported that hymn singing will not be allowed. It is also being suggested that services will have to be shorter than would previously have been the case. I would want to retain as much of the familiar structure and elements of our worship at St Margaret's as possible, but that has to be balanced by the requirement to ensure we are worshipping in a safe environment, and that we do nothing that might lead to the spread of Covid-19. Once the government guidance is issued, I will be able to work out what is going to be possible, and when. I will of course let you know as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, our programme for this week is:

#### Sunday 28 June

10.00am to 11.00am - church open for private individual prayer.

7.30pm - Night Prayer on zoom.

You can join the meeting from 7.20pm. The meeting ID is 708 595 2669 and the password is 030520. The worship includes a psalm, a hymn, bible reading, prayers, and a reflection. The theme this week will be SS Peter and Paul, whose feast day is Monday 29 June.

#### Thursday 2 July

10.30am to 11.30am - meet-up for coffee at the Gardeners Cottage Café in Valentines Park.

We will be observing social distancing rules, and also rules about the maximum people who can meet together in any one group, so we will form as many groups as necessary.

With best wishes

Fr Stephen

## Sunday's Gospel.

The gospel reading for this week, continuing the readings this year from St Matthew's Gospel, is St Matthew 10: 40-end. Do try to find time to read this, and pray for one another as Christ's people at St Margaret's.

## Redbridge Citizens

**Redbridge Citizens (of which St Margaret's is a member) is celebrating planning approval for the first Community Land Trust (CLT) homes to be built in Redbridge.**

The 10 homes are part of a development of 94 homes on Clements Road led by the Council's development company, Redbridge Living. There are also London Affordable Rent homes and private rented homes as part of the same development, which received planning permission at a council planning committee on 22 June. The CLT homes will be the first of their kind in the borough and the first of 250 CLT homes committed to by council leader, Jas Athwal. The CLT homes will be sold to local people at prices linked to local incomes, meaning they will be approximately half the cost of similar homes on the open market. Then, when those residents move on, the homes will be sold at a price again linked to local incomes, guaranteeing their affordability for generations to come.

## Giving to St Margaret's

If you haven't already done so, maybe you would consider setting up a Standing Order to make your donation to St Margaret's, even if only temporarily until we return to some sort of normality. The sort code for the church bank account is 08 92 99 and the account number is 65793705. Our bank account is with the Co-op Bank under the name of PCC of St Margaret and St Clement Ilford. If you have any questions please contact Ann, our Treasurer; 020 8518 1527.

## Changing Times

A four weeks of guided prayer and reflection on the changes taking place in our lives arising from Covid-19. It is offered online by St Augustine's College of Theology, based in Kent, and is free. Each week there is an audio talk and an accompanying resource with prayer and reflection exercises.

Many of us have begun to question the way we have lived in the past. How do we want our future to be? Amidst all that is happening is there a direction the Holy Spirit might be drawing us, and if so how might we recognise and respond to this invitation? Drawing on the bible, the spiritual wisdom within the Christian tradition, poetry and the rhythms of change within the natural world, *Changing Times* explores the impacts, challenges and opportunities of this unexpected season of our lives.

Find out more, and register here: <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/changing-times-four-weeks-of-guided-prayer-and-reflection/>



## FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

### The sick and those in need:

Loraine Arnold, Janet Edwards, Fizza and her family, Anne Fox, Marjorie Green, Joan Kelly, Grace Martin, Jennifer Mottley and her family, Joergen Nielsen, Ade Onuagulu-chi, Hemendra Rai, Reema, Fr Bill Scott, Christobel Trumpet, John Went

### The recently departed,

### Those whose anniversary of death falls this week:

29<sup>th</sup>: Brian Mountain, Ellen Hughes, George Thompson  
30<sup>th</sup>: Geoffrey Anyia  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Angelina Skerritt  
4<sup>th</sup>: Phyl Green

### Collect for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**