

The Parish Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Ilford

Weekly News Bulletin Sunday 29 March 2020



Dear friends

The Weekly Bulletin is one of the ways to help us keep in touch with one another during the time that public worship is suspended. ***Do let me know of anything you would like me to add. Some good news stories to share, or some photos would be great!*** Please do share this Bulletin with others. If you do not wish to remain on the circulation list, please let me know and I will remove your name.

Sunday at 10:30

This is the time we would normally meet each week for our Sung Eucharist. Obviously that's not possible at present, so I want to suggest that at 10:30 on Sunday as many of us as possible in our own homes stop and pause for a few moments, think of and pray for one another as Christ's people at St Margaret's, and then say the Collect of the Day (below) and the Lord's Prayer. Although we will not be in the presence of one another, we will be united together in prayer. If 10:30 isn't convenient for you, find another point in the day to do this.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today in the Church Calendar is the 5th Sunday of Lent, and the beginning of Passiontide, the last two weeks of the Season of Lent. In these two weeks, we focus on the passion of Christ; his passionate and un-ending love for us and his world. The name 'Passiontide' comes from a Latin term used in the early Church meaning 'to suffer or endure'.

The Eucharist readings for this Sunday are: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; St John 11: 1-45. You might like to read them during the week.

Some thoughts and reflections on the readings for adults can be found here:

https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20385/liveyourfaith_106_29_march.pdf

The Collect for Sunday, to use at 10:30 and which you might also like to use during the week is:

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
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.

Helen has again produced a sheet of activities for children this week called 'Celebrating God's Creatures'. It is the theme for this week in the #LiveLent booklet.

Covid-19 and places of worship

Churches, and all other places of worship, are closed for public services and private prayer, and for meetings and other activities until further notice. No baptisms, weddings or funerals can take place in church. Emergency baptisms can take place in hospital or home; funerals have to be short services at a graveside or at a crematorium. The Archbishops have written:

The government is asking us to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. We call upon all our churches and church leaders, clergy and lay, to follow this advice. We are in a time of great fearfulness. The numbers of those becoming seriously ill and dying is increasing. It therefore remains very important that our churches remain closed for public worship and private prayer. The Church of England is called to model the very best practice. We must lead by example. Staying at home and demonstrating solidarity with the rest of the country at this testing time, is, we believe, the right way of helping and ministering to our nation. Therefore, for a season, the centre for the liturgical life of the church must be the home, not the church building.

It is imperative that as the Church of Jesus Christ, called to offer hope and light in the darkness of this world's ills, we maintain a praying presence for our community, though this must now happen from our hearts and from our homes.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM for St Margaret's was due to be held on Sunday 19 April. This is now postponed. The legal situation concerning APCM's, Churchwardens and PCC members is:

- The deadline for Annual Meetings has been extended until 31 October 2020.
- Churchwardens elected in 2019 continue to hold office until 31 January 2021
- Deanery Synod representatives elected in 2017 continue in post until 30 November 2020.
- PCC members will remain in post until the end of the next APCM, whenever that takes place.

#LiveLent

Please keep using the Lent booklet throughout the rest of the season of Lent. If you don't have a copy of the book you can access the resources digitally here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>

Finance

St Margaret's gets its income from four main sources: money given by the congregation in collections or FWO envelopes; rent from hiring out the church hall; rent from a house converted into three flats in Ingleby Road which the parish owns; income from money invested. We have no grants from the government or Redbridge Council; our income has to cover our expenses. Like all organisations, businesses and groups our income stream is now diminished - there are no public services; no groups are meeting in our hall. Although our expenditure on things like fuel and hall cleaning is obviously reduced, we still have to meet certain expenditure, in particular payments to insure the church building and our Parish Share payment to the Diocese, which is £4,967 per month.

I want to ask if those of you who can afford to do so, and who usually make a donation to the church either as cash or in a FWO envelope, would consider continuing your donation in the form of a monthly Standing Order. Doing so would enable us to maintain some stream of income. Please contact Ann, our Church Treasurer, if you are willing to set up a Standing Order, and she will be able to give you the necessary details. Her phone number is: 020 8518 1527.

Covid-19 Reflection

There was a really interesting and thought provoking interview with Dr Rowan Williams on BBC2 Newsnight last Monday. Very much worth watching. You can access it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000gpj4/newsnight-23032020> The interview starts about 34 minutes in, and lasts 10 minutes.

Alternative School

With schools closed except for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, many homes have also become schools! Here's Aster's classroom, and a rainbow she produced. There was a challenge to put rainbows in your window as something for children to spot when they are out walking!



Please do contact me if you need to. Email stmargaretig1@gmail.com Phone 020 8554 7542 or 07910 395925

With my prayers and best wishes

Fr Stephen