

St Margaret of Antioch, Ilford

Welcoming, transforming and growing together in God's love

Weekly News Sheet

Sunday 15 November 2020

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sunday 15 November

10.00am - 11.00am Church open for private prayer. You can come and leave at any time during this hour, and if you wish, light a votive candle. Please use the QR code and record your name, use the hand sanitiser, and sit in one of the marked seats to maintain social distancing.

7.30pm Night Prayer on zoom. You can join the meeting from 7.15pm to chat to other people, and we begin the worship at 7.30pm. Joining details - Meeting ID : 296 467 9306; password 176040. The theme this week will be Parables of Jesus.

Notices & News for this week

Places of worship during the national lockdown

Government ruling is that from 5 November 2020, places of worship will be permitted to open for individual prayer, but not for communal public acts of worship. Individual prayer within a place of worship is defined as a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. They should be socially distanced from other individuals or households.

The leaders of the main faiths in England have written to the Prime Minister asking that public worship to allowed to continue in places of worship. The faith leaders set out how public worship can play a vital role in supporting social cohesion and mental health and offer "an essential sign of hope". They conclude: "We call on the government to recognise and support this, and enable us to continue to worship safely, as part of the essential fabric of the nation." We continue to wait for the government to respond to the letter! You can read the full letter here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Faith%20communities%20letter%20to%20Prime%20Minister%20%28ii%29.pdf>

CLr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council, has send a letter to Minister of State Lord Stephen Greenhalgh, questioning why it has been necessary for places of worship to suspend communal worship, and setting out the importance of religion, faith, and places of worship in the communities of Redbridge. His letter is attached to this mailing.

PCC Meeting

The Church Council met last Thursday evening on Zoom. Main issues discussed were:

- Report on finances by Gladstone, our new Treasurer. The discussion about new ways of giving is detailed below
- Update on activities with Redbridge Citizens, especially around housing in Redbridge
- The need to appoint a new church architect as our previous architect has now retired. It is planned to appoint a new architect who will take responsibility for the three churches in our MMU (ourselves, St Mary, St Luke)
- Potential repair work needed in the church hall (corridor ceiling; drainage from the flat roof above the foyer leading to the toilets; leakage in the gents toilets)
- An outline for Christmas services. Making plans is difficult because at present there is still uncertainty about whether the lockdown will be lifted before Christmas, and what form communal worship in churches will be allowed (if any). The PCC will meet again in early December to finalise plans, hopefully in the light of clarity of government guidelines. It will not be possible this year to do Carol Singing around the streets of the parish in aid of the Children's Society

Advent Box of Hope

We have for some years collected goods and other items for the Ilford Cold Weather Shelter during Advent, a season of hope, as a means of giving hope to people who find themselves homeless. Because of Covid-19 conditions the Shelter will not be run in the same way this year, although they will welcome support of goods or money. The PCC feel it would be difficult this year to collect goods, but that as a church we should be showing our support for the work of the Cold Weather Shelter. So, for this year we will be collecting money contributions for the Shelter. Details of how you can do this will be published next week.

Traidcraft

This year's Traidcraft Christmas afternoon tea and sale is going to be very different. I would like you to join me virtually on **Wednesday 18 November at 7pm** and I will show you the fair trade cards and gifts I have to offer. Please log in to zoom with your cup of tea and notebook, and decide what you'd like to buy. Zoom meeting details: Meeting ID 853 6143 3307; Passcode 049086.

If you are not able to join me on zoom or would like more information, please call or text me on 07555 144255. Thanks. Sharon.

Church Giving and Finance

Like all organisations and institutions, the financial situation of places of worship has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. At a difficult financial time we are grateful that so many people have continued to give to St Margaret's. However, our income from hall bookings has declined because organisations using our hall are not currently meeting, and income from congregational giving has declined because churches have not been able to hold communal worship and some members of our congregation have remained at home to shelter. On the other hand, although some of our expenditure has decreased (on use of fuel, for example) other costs remain, such as insurance payments and our monthly Parish Share payment to the Diocese of £4,697. It is to the great credit of St Margaret's that we have continued to pay our Parish Share payment in full; many churches in the diocese are defaulting.

The PCC feel that the Covid situation we find ourselves in means we need to rethink ways in which we give to the church, in essence to move away from cash as much as possible and instead give via Standing Order, online giving or contactless payment in church. More about different options in next week's Weekly News Sheet.

Next Sunday - Christ the King

10.00am - 11.00am Church open for private prayer
7.30pm Night Prayer on zoom

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Pugh stmargaretig1@gmail.com 020 8554 7542

Churchwardens: Charles Acolatse 07946 221813 Vijin Paulraj 07424 595436

Keep in touch with us by visiting our web site: stmargaretilford.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @StMargaretIG1

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FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The sick and those in need:

Loraine Arnold, Janet Edwards, Fizza and her family, Anne Fox, Marjorie Green, Fr Kenneth Hinds, Matilda, Jennifer Mottley and her family, Joergen Nielsen, Ade Onuaguluchi, Pauline Rodway, Sandra Runeckles, Christobel Trumpet, Pam Williams

The recently departed,
including, Mary Thompson

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

16th: Philip Butler

17th: Linsey Whittingham, Ethel Stanley,
Wilfred Bridges

18th: Geoffrey Garlick

21st: Peter Nelmes

Sunday Collect

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in 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.



HM Government **NHS**

NATIONAL COVID ALERT

STAY HOME

5 NOV - 2 DEC

Only leave home for food, medical reasons, exercise, education or work

You must work from home if you can

Avoid travel unless essential

Schools and essential shops will remain open

Remember: wash hands, cover face, make space

Find the latest guidance and exemptions at gov.uk/coronavirus

London Borough of Redbridge **STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES**

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