Easter 2 eMag
Here's your weekly eMag(nificat) from Great St Mary's, the University Church. The building may be closed, but the church is still going strong. Read on to find out about what's going on:

- From the Vicar
- Worship this Week
- Spiritual Communion
- Children
- Music
- Easter Collection
- Pastoral Care
- BCP Collect
- Climate Change
- Ways to Help
- A Prayer

From the Vicar
Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thank you for all the Easter greetings via email and cards, so amazingly thoughtful of you all. Thanks too to all those who have been in touch about the service and my sermon on Easter Day: you'll find a link to it here:

https://www.facebook.com/1720724121473194/videos/652108482271173/

A number of you have written to me telling me that you are finding it hard to pray right now - a club I'm willing to confess to being a member of. I know that many are finding a wonderful connection via our online streamed Sunday
services, and the daily Morning Prayer and Compline. I am genuinely delighted. For some of you who are finding it hard to pray for yourselves, engaging with the voice of another leading prayer is a real support and strength.

But I am one of those for whom it just doesn't work. The technology which proves to be a gift for many is a barrier for me. It makes me feel more, not less detached, both from God, and from my community. It's been a difficult but important piece of spiritual learning, and I am having to live with it and learn from it. What is certain is the daily office of Morning and Evening Prayer is essential scaffolding, holding me up at a time when I need repair and restoration. Easter is a good time for repair and restoration.

As well as the Daily Office, I need poetry. Poetry has been important for me since my late teens, but never more so than now. Poetry is a vital source of life, comfort, and challenge. On Monday morning I used Malcolm Guite's new poem Easter 2020 as part of Morning Prayer, and I know that many of you were moved by it: you'll find it here, beautifully read by the poet himself https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2020/04/12/easter-2020-a-new-poem/

Other poems have been important too, old friends and new discoveries. Martyn Percy, the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, has introduced me to a text by the 20th-century Irish poet John O'Donohue (1956-2008). I keep revisiting it, addictively, finding extraordinary resonance in both my present mood and our present context. Let us all seek to remain generous until the time comes good.

This is the time to be slow,

Lie low to the wall

Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let

The wire brush of doubt

Scrape from your heart

All sense of yourself

And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,

Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

Adrian

Worship in Easter

This Sunday Devin will leading our service of Mattins at 9.30am and Adrian will be giving an address, both will be live-streamed on our Facebook page.

After the morning service, join us at 10.15am for what is proving to be the popular, Zoom coffee at https://zoom.us/j/93576854944 (Meeting ID: 935 7685 4944)

You'll need a password to join the Zoom coffee hour; the password is 1205

There will be a service for children and families live streamed on the Facebook page at 11am on Sunday.

For the Great 50 Days of Easter we continue with our 9am and 9pm weekday services of Morning Prayer and Compline. And during the time that our church building is closed we will alternate on Sundays between Holy Eucharist and Mattins.

Remember, you can find service books and more at our website, www.gsm.cam.ac.uk/church/online-services/ And you can join us in prayer on your own without a device, of course! Although we cannot gather in the same place to worship together, we can gather in the same time.
**Spiritual Communion**
Revd Shirley shares a very helpful video reflection on spiritual communion, from St Matthew's church in Norfolk: [https://youtu.be/UGaKox9ywzo](https://youtu.be/UGaKox9ywzo)

**Children and Families**
Our interim Children's Minister, Rebekah Perez, is delighted to inform you that Children’s church will be hosting some bi-weekly zoom coffee meetings for parents starting next week, dates and times to be determined - so look out for an email about that!

The popular video stories about the Passion & Easter can still be found on our [YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com) and parish [website](https://www.parish-website.com), as well as on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

**Music**
Sam Hayes, our Director of Music, has shared recordings he's made of the choirs of Great St Mary's over the years. We've posted music on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com) and on the parish website and Facebook page.

Benedict Todd, our organist and Ass't Music Director, has been sharing some beautiful organ music for us at [http://www.benedicttodd.co.uk/gsm_corona.html](http://www.benedicttodd.co.uk/gsm_corona.html)

Have a listen!

Keep an eye out for weekly reflections from our Ministry Experience Scheme, Toni Papenfuhs, on our [YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com) as well as on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

**Collection for Christian Blind Mission**

**Target £1000** ; donations so far **£595**
A huge thank you to all who have contributed; please donate soon and enable matching Government funding

Our parish Wider Concerns Easter ‘Envelope’ Collection is for Christian Blind Mission Many of you will have already heard about Christian Blind Mission, in Revd Shirley Holder’s sermon at Parish Communion in February.

Click here to donate, or read on and learn more:

Christian Blind Mission (UK) are based in Cambridge doing remarkable and inspirational work “transforming the lives of people with disability, their families and communities in the poorest places of the world. Driven by Christian values, they tackle poverty, prevent blindness, improve health and change the lives of disabled people through restored sight or mobility, dignity and hope.”

Of course this year as we weren't able to pass the plate on Easter Sunday. Therefore, we're collecting donations via JustGiving, at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/greatstmarys

Your donations will be doubled by the Government, so please donate early!

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure, and you can still use GiftAid as part of your donation. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Christian Blind Mission. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

Pastoral Care

The clergy have been making contact (usually by telephone) with every household on our congregational lists over the last few weeks. It's great to speak, and be in touch.

In case of a pastoral emergency, if you need to reach a clergyperson right away, the pastoral emergency phone number is 01223 747277
Rev Shirley is organizing a buddying programme for our church. If you're isolated, or know of someone in the congregation who is on their own, please send Shirley an email at ssh49@cam.ac.uk (see below)

In these difficult times I am sure we are all aware of friends in our Church family, who are living alone, are isolated by age, have underlying medical conditions, or who are finding themselves very stressed and fearful. The new Phone Buddies scheme is working well, but is probably limited by my not being aware of all who would like phone support.

In order that I do not miss anyone, may I ask you to send me an email if there is someone you know who would appreciate being on my list?

Many thanks,
Shirley
ssh49@cam.ac.uk

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Collect for Easter 2

Collects from the Book of Common Prayer

The Rev'd Margaret Widdess

Collect for the First Sunday after Easter*

From The Book of Common Prayer

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may alway serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Sunday, the Prayer Book and Common Worship collects are almost identical. The first half invokes God as the author of the transformative actions of Christ’s death and resurrection, and in the second half we pray, in response to God’s gift of redemption, that we may resist all evil and live pure and truthful lives. ‘Our justification’ (quoted from Romans 4. 25) means God’s work of ‘making us just’ by bringing us into a new relationship with him though faith and enabling us to lead a new life in Christ. The doctrine of justification is developed in many of St Paul’s writings. The recollection of the old leavened bread and the new unleavened dough at Passover (see 1 Corinthians 5. 7-8) gives us a concrete image of a decisive change in us that we pray to be reminded of and to act on at Easter. The collect shows how Cranmer incorporated scripture into his collects, but there are textual differences: where the Authorised Version and other versions have ‘offences’ and ‘sincerity’, the collect has 'sins' and 'pureness', from the earlier Great Bible of 1539, commissioned and used by Cranmer. This collect is a prayer that also gives us a glimpse of the Bible’s history.

*as given in the Prayer Book, but different from Common Worship, which calculates Sundays of Easter, rather than after Easter.
On Climate Change

Adrian writes: Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, a member of Great St Mary's and my colleague at Lucy Cavendish College, is a world expert on international law and climate justice. In February this year Marie-Claire gave an important and widely-acclaimed lecture at Trinity College on CoP26 and the legal, governmental, and pragmatic issues that relate to the implementation of the Paris agreement of December 2015. Our immediate attention is, of course, demanded by Covid-19; but we would do well to not lose sight of the continuing challenges of climate change. You can read more Marie-Claire, and watch/hear her lecture, at https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/news/worldwide-action-climate-emergency

Ways to Help

There are lots of good ways to help

- **Help people connect.** Great St Mary's clergy are telephoning everyone on our electoral roll. Can you check in on a friend or neighbour by phone as well?
- **Join a virtual home group.** A number of our Lent home groups have been meeting via Skype. If you're not in a group, and want to be connected by Skype or Zoom, send us an email.
- **Volunteer.** If you live in the Castle Ward area and can volunteer, visit www.castlesupport.uk. There is a national website showing local volunteer groups during the COVID-19 pandemic, at covidmutualaid.org/
- **Turn down the news** We don't need 24/7 news updates; take a break from the constant newsfeed. Many of us are keeping Saturday as a sabbath from screentime and devices.
- **Take care of yourself** — including your mental health and physical health.
- **Share a Prayer** at our virtual share a prayer website
- **Keep praying,** at 9am and 9pm especially! The Church of England has some prayer resources about COVID-19 here.
A Prayer

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr
Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.