

The Parish Church of  
St Mary the Virgin, Great Shelford



Charity No: 245456

**Sunday 8th November, 2020 - Third Sunday before Advent  
- Remembrance Sunday**

**From Simon**

Regretfully we are back in lock-down again and the government has decided that we will not be able to meet together for public services until Dec. Evidently this decision was taken without reference to the faith communities and has prompted a deal of negative comment locally and in the national media. I wrote to Anthony Browne, our MP, and raised my concerns; he has undertaken to raise this with his ministerial colleagues.

Thankfully, at least we are able to keep the church open and I encourage you to make a visit during our opening times 9.30am - 4pm every day. Our Sunday morning services will again be available as recordings on the website and YouTube channel. The Sunday evening services will be live by Zoom link.

There is no doubt that a winter lock-down will be tougher than when the days were longer and the weather warmer. However, I am sure that the network of good neighbours, friends and volunteers will help to ensure that everything that we achieved in the first long lock-down will be continued. Our village has proved itself to be a really caring community and I am confident this will continue during the next four weeks.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

**Hymn: Thou whose almighty word**

1. Thou whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the gospel-day  
Sheds not its glorious ray  
Let there be light.
2. Thou who didst come to bring  
On thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
Let there be light.
3. Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight;  
Move o'er the waters' face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light.
4. Blessèd and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,

Boundless as ocean's tide  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world far and wide  
Let there be light.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuqdlVH8VY>

### **Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness**

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mti7VL3gq>

### **Collect:**

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **First Reading: Amos 5. 18 - 24**

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4. 13 - end**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## **Gospel: Matthew 25. 1 - 13**

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## **Reflection on this Sunday's readings:**

If you were involved in the scouting movement you will probably always remember the motto "Be Prepared" (of course, the same is true of the guiding movement). Our Gospel text this morning brought this phrase back to me. In the parable Jesus is warning those listening that they must be prepared. He of course is being more specific in what we need to be prepared for than the more broad ranging scouting/guiding motto. Jesus is pointing us to be prepared for the second coming, for the end of the world, for a time when we will be gathered to God. How can we be prepared for such a day as that?

It can be hard to imagine what it might be like for the world to end tomorrow and for us to be held to account for the way that we have lived our lives. We won't have achieved perfection. For Christ is the only one to meet that measure. Though there will need to be a reckoning. What are the positive steps we might take to be more ready for this judgment?

Judgment in itself is a word we need to handle with care. There is the danger that the church (and those who call themselves Christians) can be seen as negative and disapproving. That is, writing people off because of their actions, failing to see that, as with all creation, we are made in the image of God and each of us is loved by God beyond measure.

Our actions (and inactions) do not define who we are to the depths of our soul. Sometimes our own harshest critic will be the small voice inside our head. Living a good life is about listening for the voice of God, the voice that tells us we are loved beyond measure and that © Diocese of Ely 2020 we should show that love to all those created in God's image. To prepare ourselves for the last times we should be diligent in prayer in order to discern, alongside our Christian brothers and sisters, that which God purposes for us. To hear his call and to be obedient to that summons.

So what sort of preparedness are we looking towards today? Each year when we remember those who have been gathered to God in the storm of war, (as well as those who have survived but been marked by the experience of war), we are also committing ourselves to work for all that makes for peace. We do this work so that we do not repeat the mistake of the past, that others will not have to risk their lives in the service of humankind. We must be prepared to do all we can to work for peace in the world.

That might seem a long way off, far beyond our control. How can the insignificant individual make a difference to the peace of the world? We may not be able to broker deals across the troubled spots of the world but we can build up peace around us. Are their conflicts within our families, within our workplaces, within our churches? What do we do about these small conflicts or disagreements? What do we do to build peace into these situations?

Again the answer may lie in attentive listening to one another, remembering that the person on the other side of the argument is also made in the image of God and loved by God. How might that change the small part of the world we live in? If we can live together in unity, not necessarily having to change our mind, but learning to co-exist better. This might be a way in which we can prepare ourselves to live in a more peaceful world. This may lead us to live lives which are prepared for the final days.

As we observe our silence today along with countless others. Let us commit ourselves afresh to building peace, within ourselves, within our communities, within our world. We do all this for the good of humanity, but also in remembrance of the one who lived amongst us, died for us and rose again from the dead to show us the way to heaven. He has called us to be his followers, to listen and to learn from him how we should best live our lives to reflect his glory. That the prince of peace might be worshipped at all times and in all places and

that he might reign over the world in perfect peace.



**Hello Children** Mary Mouse has gone to ground again, until we can all meet together once more. She will be sending regular letters.

**Sunday Club** will not meet until further notice. We will be offering a regular Mary Mouse letter. For details contact Gillian, [gillian.pett29@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.pett29@gmail.com)

## INTERCESSIONS

Please refer any pastoral concerns for members of the congregation or members of the local community to any member of the Ministry team including our Co-ordinator for Pastoral Services, Mrs Frances Simms. Please pray for the sick, frail, housebound and those in care. Please let the Vicar know about all cases of sickness and others for whom we should pray.

## SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH

Before the pandemic we were already concerned about the increasing financial deficit we have been facing for several years. Some of our regular expenses, e.g. utilities, have been reduced during lockdown, but ongoing expenses have continued. Additionally the provision of sanitiser products, signage and other purchases connected with providing online services has added costs. Our greatest expense by far is the Ministry Share paid to the Diocese (currently £52,189 pa), which has to be found every month, under all circumstances. We still very much need the support of all our Church members and visitors.

Donations can be made by:

- Parish Giving Scheme (PCC's preferred option)
- Standing Order or Bank transfer
- Donating via the Giving Page on website <https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>
- Traditional envelope donations (posted through the vicarage letterbox, or left in the collection box at the back of church). Please write your PIN on the envelope, if you have one.

To help further, at no cost to yourself, please Gift Aid your donations if you are able. Our Treasurer Pat Brown is happy to assist with any of the above. Contact details: phone 07811 563597 or email: [patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk) . Thank you very much for all your support.

## ST. MARY'S GREAT SHELFORD - WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### Praying together as a community

At a time when we are all missing meeting to worship together perhaps there are things that we can do to help us feel that we are still a worshipping community, and that we are all thinking of one another. Here are three simple things that we could all do to pray together for each other and our community.

1. At noon each day we could say the Lord's Prayer. You might like to go to the front door and stand in the doorway because we are praying not just for ourselves but for the whole community.

2. If you have a candle, light it at 7pm on Sunday evenings and put it in your front window. Pray for all those who are ill, all those who are alone, and all those who are caring for others. This looks beautiful and is a sign to other people that we are keeping the light of hope for them.

3. In the evenings before bed we could pray for each other, perhaps by saying the wonderful collect for aid against all perils from the Book of Common Prayer.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Services on video:

I am continuing to celebrate Holy Communion and other services for the whole community on Sundays. The videos and recordings are on our web site. In addition you can see them on our Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTxJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAyY5UYw> <<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTxJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAyY5UYw>> ) or on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/> <<https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/>> - you don't need to use Facebook to see our posts).

As you watch you can make a Spiritual Communion. The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer below offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost' (Canon B 15).

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

**Gwen Gresham RIP:** We learned just before the newsletter was printed that Gwen Gresham died on 29th Oct. We give thanks for Gwen's life and her fellowship with us while she lived at Old School Court - may she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Please also remember her son Andrew and the family. At this stage we have no news about the funeral arrangements.

**Marriage Banns:** Please pray for Robert Westwick and Emma Aherne whose Banns were read for the first time last Sun. Because we have no public worship until Dec. Robert & Emma will be applying for a Common Licence which dispenses with the requirement to call Banns.

**Cambridge City Foodbank:** The organizers were very pleased to receive our collection last week and asked that their sincere thanks are expressed to everyone who made a contribution.

**Christmas Cards:** In the past, St Mary's held many events to support the work of the Children's Society. Though we are now unable to fund raise in the same way for them, it would be good if we could at least sell a few Christmas cards. Please look at this year's selection on the poster near the 'inside' notice boards. I will be pleased to receive orders. Many thanks, Dorothy

**Remembrance Sunday 2020:** The Remembrance Service on this Sunday will be live-streamed from Great Shelford Free Church at 10am and anyone can watch via their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ShChurchelfordFree>.

The War Memorial service at 11am will also be live-streamed by the Facebook link above. The absolute minimum number of people will be taking part and all socially distanced. Following government regulations, we are specifically requesting people **not to attend** this service, but to participate 'virtually' by the live-stream or the services broadcast on TV. A small group of people will be reading of the names of the Fallen, keeping the Silence and laying wreaths on behalf of the community.

**Armistice Day Commemoration: 11.11.11:** There will be a brief service to mark Armistice Day on Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 10.55am on War Memorial Green in Great Shelford. Again, this will **not be a public event** this year but will be available as a recording on our website or via our YouTube channel (see details above - **Services on video**).

**Gift Day 2020 results:** I am delighted to report that we received some very generous responses to our annual Gift Day appeal in Oct. In total you have donated £4,580 (Gift Aid yet to be added) this year. The PCC are very grateful for your generous responses.

**Hon. Canon of Ely Cathedral:** Unfortunately my collation and installation as an Hon. Canon of the Cathedral which was due to take place on Mon has been cancelled due to the lock-down. I will let you know about the new date in due course.

## Cambridge Month of Accompanied Prayer, November 2020:

Once again the team are offering an opportunity for people to be accompanied once a week by a trained guide in November 2020. Most days and evenings will be possible, to suit you. Due to the pandemic these 'meetings' will be on a virtual platform or by telephone. There will be no charge for participation. We will need to limit the number of participants to 20. Sadly, this year we will be without Sr Anna Hawke who died earlier in the year but we are very keen to continue with the work about which she was so enthusiastic.

An introductory session will be held on Zoom on Sunday 1 November, All Saints Day, at 3pm, followed by the chance to meet with your guide and arrange a mutually convenient time of day.

If you are interested, please email (or ring) for more details and an application form –

Kay Dodsworth: [ekdodsworth@gmail.com](mailto:ekdodsworth@gmail.com); 01223 234493 or 07786910406.

Romie Ridley: [romieridley@gmail.com](mailto:romieridley@gmail.com); 07941862435 or 01223 842922



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



**CONNECTIONS**

provides a hymn and reflection.

**Daily HOPE:** This is an excellent national Church of England initiative for those who are especially isolated and do not have access to the internet.

**Daily HOPE** is a freephone line, available 24 hours a day on **0800 804**

**8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love',

**We are delighted to welcome visitors to St Mary's for private prayer and reflection. The church remains open during this lock-down every day from 9.30am. to 4pm.**

### Vicar:

The Rev'd Simon Talbott

[simon@thetalbotts.co.uk](mailto:simon@thetalbotts.co.uk)

01223 847068

### Contact Churchwarden:

Mrs. Stella Nettleton

[stella.nettleton@btinternet.com](mailto:stella.nettleton@btinternet.com)

07763 887953

### Reader/Licensed Lay Minister:

Mrs. Maureen Dobson

[d-mdobson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:d-mdobson@hotmail.co.uk)

01223 840076

### Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Katharin Page

[pagekatharin@gmail.com](mailto:pagekatharin@gmail.com)

07710 518220

### Pastoral Services Co-ordinator

Mrs. Frances Simms

[francesjsimms47@gmail.com](mailto:francesjsimms47@gmail.com)

01223 845895

### Children's work contact:

Gillian Pett

[gillian.pett29@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.pett29@gmail.com)

Applications for baptisms, marriages and the calling of Banns of marriage should be made please to the Parish Administrator.

**08/11/20**