

**There will be no  
Worship Services at  
St Mary's Church  
until further notice**

## Church Continues *Online*

As well as Sunday livestreams, in Holy Week I hope to do a '*Foot Washing*' service on Thursday evening too. This year you will have to wash your own feet or others in your household if you are allowed!

On Easter Sunday there will be our usual festival services of 8am BCP and then 10am United Service.

[www.smlm.co.uk/livestream/](http://www.smlm.co.uk/livestream/)

**There will also be an @11  
Service page with various links  
to interact with**

## Palm Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>

8am BCP livestream  
9.30am CW livestream  
@11 Worship journey

## Maundy Thursday

7pm Foot Washing Livestream

## Easter Sunday

8am BCP livestream  
10am Easter Joint Livestream

**How he did it!!..  
from his summerhouse**



Welcome to the St Mary's Church family

We are a diverse Church community meeting in and for our village

## A Whole New World...

Well, the events of the last few weeks still seem incredible to me. As we continue our journey into the unknown, through this lockdown period, I thank you for your patience as we work out how to do church in this physically-distant, minimal-contact world. I hope you've been able to offer or receive local help being coordinated by the Parish Council and some generous local people organising things on Facebook, or just connected up to your neighbours to offer support and love wherever it may be needed.

We are now approaching the strangest **Holy Week** for many years, a Holy Week in which we are unable to meet in the church but only on the phone, online or across the street. To aid the journey from **Palm Sunday** to **Easter Sunday** I hope to provide each household connected to our church community with a palm cross and a reading for each day of this week to use for your reflection. It was a topsy-turvy week for Jesus, beginning with an amazing parade approaching Jerusalem, continuing with meals and meetings, until Jesus is eventually handed over to be killed. The Good Friday narrative is worth reading in full at some point, to reflect on an unbearable experience that is hard to imagine. Of course, we know the ending, God wins the war and death's sting is no more. As to our current situation – we may not know the exact ending, or how we might each be impacted – but we know that **God continues to walk alongside us**, he hears our prayers and feel our pain. As Moses said to Joshua on their difficult journey through the wilderness and towards the promised land: '*The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*' (Deuteronomy 31.8) **Stephen**

## Online Easter Garden

Ann Manning is hoping to create an **Easter Garden** at home this year. The idea is that pictures of this evolving feature of Easter will appear on the website and Facebook. Everyone is encouraged to create their own garden, either in a flower bed or in a seed tray. You can then send it to me or post it online for others to enjoy. You may well be able to see Ann's garden if you walk past her house. [smlm.co.uk/garden](http://smlm.co.uk/garden)  
**Anne**

## Comments From Facebook

"I am very grateful to you Stephen, it really felt as if we were almost in our beloved St Mary's and a lovely service too. Keep up the amazing work you do, it really is much and widely appreciated."

"It was brilliant - lovely to feel we were in St Mary's - good skills! Thank you for keeping us going."

"Thank you Stephen for your continued support for us all. God bless you and all the family of St. Mary's and the village."

## News Sheet

If you would like to get the News sheet by email please contact Debbie (See below)

Or visit

<http://www.smlm.co.uk/blog/>

## Contacts

Vicar

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(emergency or texts)

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Church Administrator

Annie Mitchener

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News Sheet and Website

Debbie Phipps

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Prayers

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## Social Media

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/StMarysLM](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysLM)

Bellringing Facebook

[www.facebook.com/bellringingsmlm](https://www.facebook.com/bellringingsmlm)

Twitter

## Praise For

- All those supporting the community with love and kindness

## Prayers for

- Everyone who is self-isolating with Coronavirus symptoms
- Everyone as they stay at home. To keep themselves safe and those around them safe from the virus.

'It is great to hear how people are coping with the current situation. Below is one such account from an active eighty year old church member, who also shares rays of hope from someone on the Front Line of the battle'

**Stephen**

## One amazing day in a fast moving week

It was **Thursday**: I had been up at 6am the day before to shop at Sainsbury's in Wareham at 8 so was late into the bathroom! A loud knock from the unoccupied bungalow next door made me rush to look through a side window. Yes, there was a vehicle there. Knowing it was likely to be the owner's son in law, I made myself look tidy and rushed out. After a **Good Morning**, Neil replied he was there collecting empty pots to "grow vegetables in".

He is a consultant anaesthetist at a local hospital. I commented he must be working long hours now to which the reply was "*Yes the hours are indeed long and expected to increase. It is an extremely worrying time as we are now nearly at full capacity with respirators. We have had one surge of Coronavirus positive patients and we expect another surge soon. Being on the 'Front Line' I am bound to contract it. We will get through this though, by July we will be over the worst. Once we have 40% immunity, there will be nowhere for it to go, gradually younger people will get out and begin to lead a more normal life. Some like yourself will be restricted for longer. By October life will be more normal and once it is all over, the world will be a better place.*"

This was being expressed by others the next day but it was the first time I had heard it and so forcibly by a Front-line worker. It was a great experience to hear such a positive voice straight from this valuable key worker.

**The rest of the day** was pottering in the garden, then a chat with an elderly resident who had lived in the Village all his life (keeping our 2 Meters away) followed by a long talk with a Methodist friend, who was out for her exercise.

**2pm** Saw me outside the Chequers in the glorious sunshine ready to collect my fruit and veg box which was a very good selection, ordered the previous day. All the required distancing and hygiene requirements etc in use.

**8pm** Was time to be out clapping "**the care workers**" with some other residents, one of whom used a bell and another two trays because "*clapping alone would not be loud enough for others to hear*"

**So let's keep using our voices to speak to others, singing to the Lord our God and even, for those who are able, dancing around our homes.**