

# Chelsea Deanery

in the Kensington Episcopal Area of the Diocese of London

CORONAVIRUS BULLETIN NO.1

27 March 2020

**Sharing stories of #FaithHopeLove across the Church of England in Chelsea**

## St. Luke's and Christ Church

We have closed the churches and parish office as the Bishop of London instructed us to do. However, we have put up hard copy notices of all contacts and e-mail versions too.

We have a dedicated Coronavirus page on the website with details of prayer materials.

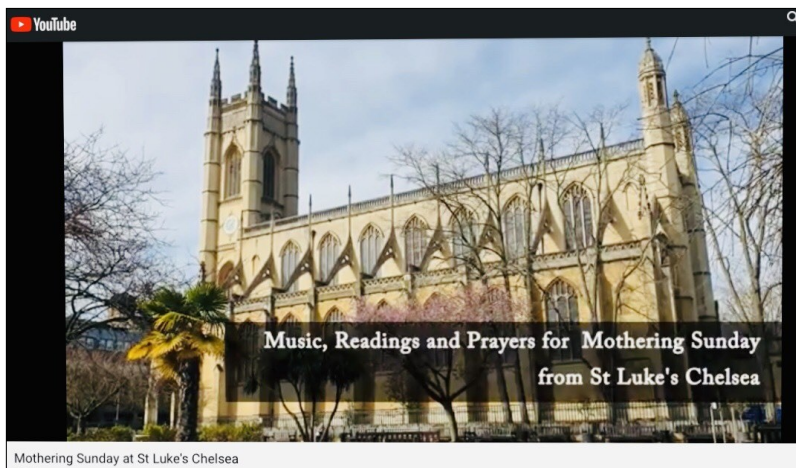
Fr Sam and our musicians did a great 15-minute reflective worship via website and YouTube. We will continue this for each Sunday.

We have had all our incoming calls diverted to one mobile, held by our parish manager and have set up a Zoom group, so that we can have visual contact with all our staff, lay and clerical.

Our Buddy scheme is working well, emphasising the mutuality of this seems important, Chelsea people don't want to be thought of as in need! Clergy are also making about 10 calls a day to the more vulnerable parishioners simply to stay in touch.

With a very heavy heart we have also had to close our halls, which means that, in particular the 16 Anonymous groups we host each week as well as Glass Door on Friday are even more vulnerable.

**The Revd. Prebendary Dr. Brian Leathard**  
Rector



## Chelsea Academy

Our Leadership Team are in supporting approximately 20 students.

I'm still creating weekly powerpoints for the Chelsea Academy community in line with our Christian ethos and theme of the week. There are Bible verses and prayers for encouragement during this time.

Also, we did a collection of food for the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank on Thursday.

Lastly, I'm emailing the students that I mentor each week to check on how they are getting on and offer them support.

**Tim Richards**  
Chaplain

## Chaplaincies

Royal Hospital Chelsea  
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital  
Royal Brompton Hospital  
Royal Marsden Hospital

## St. Mary-the-Boltons

Three things we were doing before we were instructed to close the church building:

1. Committing to keeping the doors open and a prayer station visible from the door - candle lit in the centre aisle, with a leaflet of good prayers from the CofE website to use or take away. About a half dozen people in and out most days.

2. Staff saying the offices, morning and evening, and the noon Eucharist replaced by midday prayers. Sunday service times are filled with the Litany at 8am and Morning Prayer at 10.30am. People welcome to come in - being clear about distancing and not being 'public worship' but 'on behalf of' etc. Deciding not to have a eucharist - I am thinking hard about this and would be pleased to be convinced about why others ARE having them, when people cannot share the meal. I have to say, I do miss having clerical colleagues to bounce these thoughts around with. One question - if it's not public prayer, do we record it in the register?

3. Our weekly emailing now includes the Gospel for the Sunday, a few intentions for intercession, the collect for the day and the prayer from the CofE website about covid-19; an image, links to music (planning on using the gifts of our Director of Music who we want to keep occupied) and a short reflection; and all the links and directions for praying the prayer of the church alongside us, if remotely. For Holy Week our guest preacher will add his texts to this each day. We are putting paper version in the post for people, too, and having them available for people who pass by.

The closure of the church and lockdown has meant that we will be trying out worshiping by podcast, with the technical expertise of our Director of Music.

**The Revd. Jenny Welsh**

*Vicar*



## St. Simon Zelotes

We live-streamed morning and evening service on Sunday.

I am sending out a weekly E Mail and a short recorded video message (about 90 seconds). My admiration for broadcasters has gone up hugely – so difficult to speak in to an I-phone camera!

We have a system of younger people helping older if they need shopping done.

We have wrestled with how to help a family of mother and two children with father stuck in Iraq.

**The Revd. Mike Neville**

*Vicar*

## Chelsea Old Church

I have a COBRA meeting each day with my Churchwardens by phone and the children's team.

I have the phone list of all the parishioners and am working my way through it and have asked each of them to ring their parish group.

They have my study desk phone number and my mobile number is held by our COBRA team which I am keeping this as it were as a hotline.

**The Revd. Canon David Reindorp**

*Vicar*

## St. Luke's Earls Court

The parish is currently in an interregnum led by the Churchwardens, Josh Hinton and Mobola Sandey.



htb

**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOUR**

## Holy Trinity Brompton

With public acts of worship suspended we have begun streaming our church service on Sundays. While this hasn't been without its difficulties, we have been encouraged by the stories of people engaging with church for the first time after being invited by their friends.

One of the challenges we are facing is how best to continue with our pastoral care with self-isolation and social distancing. Despite these limitations we have been able to have positive pastoral interactions over telephone and video calls.

As we seek to respond to the most isolated, vulnerable and ill, we have set up an emergency food and supplies bank to get essential supplies to those in need. We are also setting up volunteer helpforce teams to sustain regular contact and assist with errands.

**The Revd. Ben Willis**  
Curate

## St. Andrew's and St. John's Chelsea

Last Sunday we did a Youtube service, with prayers, Bible reading, sermon and a song and will try to do that each Sunday morning, health allowing, with people filming themselves in their own home and then my daughter (17 years old!) putting the clips together. It's not Hollywood but people really appreciated seeing the faces and hearing voices of those they know

We have set up a Whatsapp group for the church family to swap news and are seeking to call weekly those who don't do Whatsapp.

We are doing Bible study groups via Zoom.

We have a small number of healthy volunteers who have not left London and are seeking to care for the vulnerable in the parish, distributing information via email and today putting leaflets through doors.

Finally, I want to thank the team at St Luke's Chelsea for allowing my wife Penny and I to use the vestry of St Luke's for a quiet space last week to counsel a parishioner who is in the Marsden, who wanted to talk about dying with us and her two teenage sons.

**The Revd. Paul Dawson**  
Vicar

## Holy Trinity Sloane Square

We built a 'wayside shrine' at the entrance to Holy Trinity to encourage passers-by to come in to pray until we were asked to close the building.

The clergy were at Holy Trinity CofE Primary School every day until the school closed on Friday, visiting classrooms, leading assemblies, talking to parents and encouraging our teachers. Our school is now educating the children of key workers and those with special needs.

The clergy visited workers to listen to them and carry a message of hope as shops and organisations in Sloane Square began to shut.

The clergy, churchwardens and staff team have started holding daily meetings by video conference to coordinate our response and have produced a Continuity Plan to cover all eventualities.

We have built a 'Taking Care' network, ringing members of the congregation to offer practical and pastoral support.

We started broadcasting daily services from the Chapel of the Resurrection at Holy Trinity on Facebook at 10am and 6pm and do so now from our homes.

**The Revd. Canon Nicholas Wheeler**  
Rector

**Taking  
care**



If you are concerned about your health causing you to become isolated, whether due to Coronavirus or something else, or if you are concerned for other members of our congregation, contact your church on 020 7730 7270 or [parishoffice@stloanechurch.org](mailto:parishoffice@stloanechurch.org) so that Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Grant and other volunteers can keep in touch and arrange to support you when needed

**Holy Trinity Sloane Square** 



**LIVE**

from  
Holy Trinity  
Sloane Square  
Tuesday to Saturday at 10am  
MORNING PRAYER  
at 6pm  
EVENING PRAYER  
and BENEDICTION  
Wednesday at 6pm  
THE EUCHARIST  
Sunday at 10am  
THE EUCHARIST

[www.facebook.com/stloanechurch](http://www.facebook.com/stloanechurch)

## St. Cuthbert's Earls Court

Daily worship can continue in Church behind closed doors because I have direct access from the Clergy House to the Church. The congregation have been encouraged to pray at the same time and are reminded by regular e-mails, on the Church website and the ringing of the Church bell.

The St Cuthbert's Centre is closed. However, the homeless are provided with a cooked meal which can be collected at the door of the centre at lunchtime. The local authority and Age UK are using the centre for the distribution of food and hot meals for the self-isolating and the elderly.

**The Revd. Fr. Paul Baggott**

Vicar



## The Bishop of Kensington writes...

Dear friends,

I have been thinking recently of St Paul in his solitary prison cell in Rome, visited by maybe one or two people at a time, his experience of the Church defined by isolation and remote contact with others by letter. That picture may feel very familiar to us right now! His words written from his cell to the Christians at Colossae are worth pondering, as I suspect they describe what he did during that time: *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray... that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ."*

That call to use this time to devote ourselves to prayer, and to using whatever means we have - social media, phone calls, livestreaming - to spread the infectious message of hope and peace that Christ brings, might be a guide in how to focus ourselves and our work during this time.

From conversations over the past week or two, I have become acutely aware that we all react differently to this enforced period of isolation. We need to look after ourselves, otherwise we are of little use to others. I attach a document that has been prepared after research into reactions to trauma, to help clergy during times of crisis. I hope it can help you reflect on how this affects both you in your role and the wider community.

If you do find yourself struggling, either with the enforced isolation which is difficult for some, or with the anxieties brought on by such a major crisis, please ask for help rather than suffering alone. Do contact me, or if it's easier, your Area Dean, or the Archdeacon. We are there to help each other through this as we try to serve our churches and wider communities. Just a few other things to mention:

- ◆ I know many of you will have financial anxieties about Common Fund and other matters. If you have questions about that, please contact Mary Spredbury - [Mary.Spredbury@london.anglican.org](mailto:Mary.Spredbury@london.anglican.org) - prior to taking any action (i.e. stopping or reducing monthly amounts).
- ◆ Likewise, if you have questions about staffing, salaries or employment issues, do contact the HR team in the diocese— [HRhelpdesk@london.anglican.org](mailto:HRhelpdesk@london.anglican.org)
- ◆ Despite the disruption to our daily life, if you can, do try to keep up a pattern of prayer and devotion as close as possible to that which has sustained you during your ministry, and even perhaps develop some new disciplines during this time.
- ◆ A weekly diocesan newsletter will come out soon (hopefully tomorrow) with a link to a short video contribution from me, focussing on the passage from Colossians mentioned above. Do feel free to download that and use it in your churches and communications to your people if you want to. I will also be trying to send out other video pieces from time to time that you can use as you see fit.
- ◆ As a way of keeping us connected together and praying for each other and for our world through this time, I am planning to say Morning Prayer online via Zoom (or something similar) at 9 am each Wednesday morning from next week (1st April) until the restrictions are lifted, and would invite you to join me on any Wednesday as we pray for our nation and church through this crisis. We will send an email link to all of you so you can join if you wish.

I continue to pray for you all and I am grateful for your prayers for me.

+Graham

