

Please Pray for: Refugees re-settling in other countries and for the peoples of Syria and Yemen; those who are experiencing homeless and everyone supporting them; residents who are housebound or in isolation; children and school staff that they remain safe; workers who have lost jobs and income; frontline health and care workers in all countries; our Mission link with Cameroon; Ashford Family Foodbank and Food Share; Christians Against Poverty; and all lay and ordained ministers in the Ashford Town Parish.

Those facing serious health concerns: Charlotte Mbali, Jenny Moules, Caroline Locking, Sharon Gignes, Ann Town, Cyril and Shirley Bishop, Sue Sawyer, Alan, and all those who have Coronavirus or are recovering.

Rest in peace: Gwen Jose, Clive Back. Please pray for bereaved: the Jose and Back families and their friends.

Websites and contact details

Church of England: www.churchofengland.org

Ashford Town Parish: www.ashfordchurches.co.uk

St Mary's Ashford: www.stmaryashford.org

Team Rector: Reverend Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen
Jeremy.worthen@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Parish Priest: Reverend Richard Bellamy Phone 01233 336079 (Church Office)
richard.bellamy@ashfordchurches.co.uk

St Mary's Local Wardens:

Lesley Wraxall Phone: 01233 643814 Email: lesley.wraxall@hotmail.co.uk

Graham Stacey Phone: 07793 222137 Email: graham.stacey@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Administrator:

Sue Sawyer Phone: 01233 336079 Email: sue.sawyer@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Online giving: just click on <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/45e5d497-505c-4b60-8694-a492214ed233> before or after the service. Thank you kindly for your generosity which is very much appreciated at this time.

PLEASE NOTE: A message to all church keyholders. During Covid-19 restrictions, only keyholders on the reopening group may open the church. Thank you.

Readings for Advent Sunday

Psalm 80:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-end



The Sunday next before Advent Christ the King 22 November 2020

Welcome to St Mary's

As we continue Zoom only services because of the second Coronavirus lockdown, please do make use of the prayer resources on the Church of England website. The Archbishops have called us to devote ourselves to pray for the nation during this four-week period. You will find the prayer resources at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>
Further details overleaf.

Sunday worship on Zoom

Please join us using Zoom by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86201334657?pwd=M3ZwQmxFS3ZYUvhaUnVSaG9uMTV4UT09> Meeting ID: 862 0133 4657 Passcode: 012918

A prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday readings: Psalm 95:1-7; Ephesians 1:15-end; Matthew 25:31-end

Sue Sawyer

Thank you for continuing to pray for our church Administrator Sue Sawyer. Sue judges that it is time to withdraw for a while from the bulk of her administrative responsibilities in the interests of her health. Helen West, the Administrator for St Michael and All Angels Kingsnorth, will be providing support to Reverend Bellamy and Local Wardens Lesley and Graham.

Helen's contact details are as follows: Phone number: 01233 620433 Email: helen.west@ashfordchurches.co.uk Please note that Helen works from 9am to 1pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Richard will forward the draft weekly sheet to Helen every Wednesday, who will send a copy to everyone on the distribution list as Sue has been doing. Any updates must reach Richard by Monday. We will continue to provide a copy of the Morning Prayer service to recipients of the weekly sheet as both items are printed and delivered to people who do not have access to the Internet.

"Pray for the nation"

The Archbishops have called the Church of England to a 'month of prayer for our nation, its leaders, its health and essential services and for all those who suffer.' They also urge 'that we will be kind to one another' and pray that 'God will give us the courage and humility we need to be faithful witnesses to the gospel of peace.'

Remaining open for Prayer in lockdown

Please note that St Mary's will continue to remain open for individual prayer on Tuesdays from 12noon to 2pm. Lesley Wraxall reports that 'along with familiar faces, visitors were surprised and pleased to see that we remain open.' Thank you to all our stewards giving time and energy to this important ministry.

Ashford Interfaith Group

The next Ashford Interfaith Group meeting is scheduled for 9 December, details for joining by Zoom to follow.

Children's Society

It's that time of year when those of you who have Children's Society collection boxes are asked to return them to church. Please bring them when you next

come to church or let Irena Bushnell know that it will collecting. Irena has very kindly offered to continue this ministry.

Quiz Night

For another chance to join in the fun and test your general knowledge, join us on Saturday 28th November for a new Zoom quiz. It will be hosted once again by our own Lynn Maul and the fun starts at 7pm. To join the quiz, simply use the same Meeting ID and Password as the Sunday morning services. It is not necessary to have a team, you can join the quiz on your own, in pairs or with a group, it is just for fun and fundraising.

Thinking of others

Since the beginning of the first lockdown, Margaret Newsome has been knitting each day. With various contacts Margaret has been producing a range of items. She explains, 'knitting keeps me focused on the needs of others.' She would also like to thank the person who faithfully delivers her weekly sheet, which keeps her up-to-date with what's happening at St Mary's.

Calling for Intercessors

For a number of reasons, we have fewer intercessors than usual and Irena would like to hear from anyone who might consider exploring this ministry: familybushnell@gmail.com. Please contact Lynne Preston at Diocesan House lpreston@diocant.com for inspiring, informative, interactive training sessions for anyone leading intercessions in church services, or interested in doing so.

Electoral Roll Officer

We are very pleased to announce that Janet Eaves is our new Electoral Roll Officer. Janet will also join our Local Leadership Team (LLT) and lead the team launching the new St Mary's Guide Book to be published in due course. Janet brings a wealth of experience from her work as the Personal Assistant to the Bishop of Edmonton within the Diocese of London. During the pandemic the Electoral Roll has been, and continues to be, an important resource for all our communication work.

Christmas services and arrangements

Whilst we do not know what will happen regarding Covid-19 restrictions after 2 December, we do know that Christmas will be very different this year. We plan to publish service details next week.