

Please Pray for: Refugees re-settling in other countries and for the peoples of Syria and Yemen; those who are experiencing homelessness 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; for the logistical and organisational challenges of mass vaccination; 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, particularly with decisions about private prayer and public worship in these days.

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

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 620672 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 (Helen West is temporarily covering for Sue Sawyer)

Helen West Phone: 01233 620433 Email: helen.west@ashfordchurches.co.uk

The Ashford Town Parish Safeguarding Officer Lis Webb

Phone: 07849 903378 or email: safeguarding@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.

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

2nd Sunday of Epiphany: Psalm 139:1-6; 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-end



The First Sunday of Epiphany The Baptism of Christ Sunday 10 January 2021

Welcome to St Mary's

As you know, a third national lockdown, designated Tier 5, was announced on Monday evening to help combat the very rapid spread of the mutated strain of Coronavirus. With the advent of vaccines and the hope of the beginning of the end of this global pandemic, this is a very bitter blow indeed for everyone. The decision to remain open for public worship continues to be at parish level. On Wednesday evening 6 January, the Local Leadership Team (LLT) will meet to discuss this matter along with other agenda items. If it is decided that we should not be in church in these changed circumstances, everyone who has confirmed a place with Helen West will be contacted on Friday. Thank you for bearing with one another in love. Reverend Richard

To join services from home using Zoom, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86201334657?pwd=M3ZwQmxFS3ZYUVhaUnVSaG9uMTV4UT09> Meeting ID: 862 0133 4657 Passcode: 012918

Or to join by phone, dial: 0203 481 5240

The Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings for the 1st Sunday of Epiphany: Psalm 29; Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

Temporary cover for Sue Sawyer

Helen West is covering for Sue, who is taking a break from admin for health reasons. 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.

Confirming a place at services in St Mary's

Helen West will be looking after the list of those wishing to attend Sunday services. Please email or telephone Helen to be sure of a place making sure you give Helen your name and contact telephone number for compliance with NHS Track and Trace. We are limited to 50 places to help maintain social distancing.

For your Health and Safety

Our Risk Assessment does not allow for socialising inside the church building or in the churchyard. If you attend a service in church please remember to go directly to a seat and remain there, sitting quietly until the service has begun. When the priest concludes the service, collect your things and leave the building as soon as possible without speaking to anyone, remembering to place your service booklet in the quarantine box. Thank you for your understanding.

Private Prayer

In Tier 5, we will continue to suspend private prayer. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered as stewards, which has enabled us to offer sacred space for prayer. We look forward to opening for private prayer as soon as possible.

Staying safe in very uncertain times

Every effort is being made at St Mary's to ensure we continue to be compliant with the best advice and guidance available. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, has said that in the circumstances of Covid-19 no one should feel obligated to attend church in person. We remain very thankful for the generosity of John Small and Tim Bushnell who kindly offer live streaming.

Diary dates

Our next Local Leadership Team (LLT) meeting is at 7:30 on 6 January by Zoom and the next PCC meeting is 14 January 7:30 by Zoom. Please pray for grace and wisdom for all leaders who share responsibility for mission and ministry.

St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Church of England schools have a hugely significant role in serving our communities by providing education in the context of Christian faith. We are currently looking for a couple of people from the Parish to join Bryan Gipps on the Governing Body at our local school, St Mary's. If that is something that might interest you, please speak to Reverend Richard.

St Mary's 100 Club

Like many things in 2020, 100 Club hasn't quite gone as planned. We have had three of the monthly draws, leaving eight regular draws plus the bonus 'Christmas' draw. To get back up to speed, we are going to have a double draw each week for the next four weeks, followed by the 'Christmas' draw. All results will be announced on the weekly sheet, so good luck! The winning numbers this week are 1st: 74 (S Macrae), 2nd: 66 (Simon & Judith Mayhew), 3rd: 88 (Robert Blount). Congratulations! We will arrange for your prize to make its way to you. If anyone wants to find out more about 100 Club and take part in the 2021 competition, please get in touch with Mary Jarrett by phone on: 07810 148880 or by email: mj-1947@ntlworld.com

Ashford Interfaith Group

The next Ashford Interfaith Group meeting is on Wednesday 13 January 6pm to 7pm on Zoom. For full details email: ashfordinterfaith@gmail.com

Call to Prayer, by Bishop Rose

We are all called to actively partner with God and be the change in the world he calls us to be - and prayer is a crucial part of our hearing and partnering with God. Prayer helps us grow closer to God who loves and is love. Prayer makes a difference and enables us to grow in love, generosity and wisdom. Prayer changes lives! Visit the Changing Lives Prayer Network page to listen to Bishop Rose: <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/prayer>

Limited edition prints

St Mary's Arts Trust has started selling merchandise this year. One of the products they are producing is limited edition photoglass prints of the church. There are 3 different views, North side: South side and at night. They are all made to order. The link to their page is: <https://revelationashford.co.uk/shop/>