

Please Pray for: Refugees re-settling in other countries and for the peoples of Syria and Yemen in severe crisis; those who are experiencing homelessness and everyone supporting them; residents who continue in isolation; collapsed businesses; employees who have lost jobs and income; all staff at the William Harvey Hospital and all our NHS hospitals facing a huge backlog of postponed operations and treatment; give thanks for the remarkable progress of the mass vaccination programme; for St Mary's Church of England Primary School; Ashford School; our Mission link with Cameroon; Ashford Family Foodbank and Food Share; Christians Against Poverty.

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

Rest in peace: Florence Gisby; Maureen Brown. Please remember the bereaved in your prayers. John, the husband of Sue Sawyer's sister Julia, died recently. The Sawyer family has asked that we pray for Julia and her family.

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

Email: Jeremy.worthen@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Parish Priest: Reverend Richard Bellamy

Phone 01233 620672 Email: richard.bellamy@ashfordchurches.co.uk

St Mary's Local Wardens:

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

Janet Eaves Phone: 01233 502728 Email: ejaneteaves@aol.com

Temporary Administrator:

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.

The 3rd Sunday of Easter: Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48



The 2nd Sunday of Easter

11 April 2021

Welcome to St Mary's

"Did you have a nice Easter Richard?" "But Easter hasn't ended!" I suppose the kind questioner was thinking specifically about Easter Day, or the weekend, but the season of Easter extends until the Day of Pentecost. Last Sunday we began to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, who overcame the sting of death. We embarked on a journey known as "The Great 50 Days". The aggressive advance of secularism in Western culture can tend to eclipse the significance of the Christian seasons. The late Bishop Michael Perham insightfully remarked that "making connections between our own life-cycle, with its ups and downs, and that of the Lord and his Church," is vital. "Within that connection there is potential for human growth and spiritual fruitfulness." Perhaps we have each known something of this as we became more conscious of the natural seasons during lockdowns. Take time to ponder the significance of the resurrection, and enjoy the whole season. Reverend Richard

To join St Mary's 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

Almighty Father,

you have given your only Son to die for our sins

and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness

that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible readings: Psalm 133; Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-end

Open for Public worship

St Mary's will be open for Public Worship each Sunday at 10am, and hopefully we will continue live-streaming until all restrictions are lifted in late June. All these arrangements are of course subject to any changes in public health announcements by the government. Details about opening for Private Prayer will follow, as will plans for reopening our Community café.

Calling for stewards

Without stewards we will not be able to meet the requirements of the risk assessments for holding public worship and private prayer. Please contact Janet Eaves (details on page 4) if you can help St Mary's in this way so that we can be sure there are enough stewards until we are free of Coronavirus restrictions. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in supporting our services in church as well as John and Tim supporting live streaming.

Social fundraising events coming to a Zoom near you

7:30pm, Saturday 17 April – “The Play's the Thing”

A talk by Tony Boyd-Williams. Reminiscences of an amateur director followed by a Q&A session.

Please enter the same Zoom details as we use for Sunday services.

A donation of £5 to £10 will go towards the Parish funds. Please make your donation to Ashford Town Parish, marked 'The Play's the Thing' before or after the event. Thank you. The Social Committee is also hoping that in May, Linda Maul will host another St Mary's quiz evening. Confirmation of date and time to follow. We really hope you will be able to join one of these events. We have more ideas in the pipeline for later in the year, but if you have any ideas of your own for future social events, please contact one of the Social Committee members or our Local Wardens, Lesley and Janet.

Fundraising progress to date...

Over £250 has been raised from Canon Paul Miller's excellent Virtual Tour of the Holy Land event on Zoom in March. Thank you to everyone involved.

On the road to recovery

For some months we have been praying for Sharon Geggus. Sharon serves as a Community Midwife living in Llanelli, South Wales. She became seriously ill

with Covid-19, and so Jim Babbs, Sharon's cousin, asked us to pray for her. After speaking to Sharon recently, Jim says, "she is progressing well and exercising in the Physio Gym to help build up her strength. Sharon is very grateful for our thoughts and prayers, and sends her love and best wishes to everyone at St Mary's." You can learn a little more about Sharon's recovery by clicking the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/HywelDdaHealthBoard/videos/454770089061029/>

Local Leadership Team (LLT) meeting

Please remember our next LLT meeting in your prayers. The meeting will be taking place on Zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesday 14 April.

Reverend Caroline Mansley

Reverend Caroline Mansley has announced that she will be retiring in September. We give thanks to God for her much-valued ministry across the Ashford Town Parish, but especially at Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst and for her service as our Area Dean, which concluded in January. Caroline's last service will be on Sunday 5 September. Please continue to pray for Reverend Eve Lanchantin-Piggot, as she prepares to retire at the end of June.

Memorial Book

Nicole Osborne writes: "As many of you may know, I am in the process of compiling a 'Memorial Book' for our lovely Sue Sawyer. The idea is that this will be given to her family to keep and will hopefully provide some comfort when they are able to share our memories of her and see how much she was loved and admired by us all. We now have a deadline for compiling this and I will need to have anything you would like included by Friday 30th April – so 3 weeks. I am going to be honest and say that so far, I have received far fewer inputs than I was expecting, but also say that I understand how very hard it has been for many of us to put into words what Sue represented to us – so I am hoping that now her funeral has been held and Easter has happened that we can focus on completing this for her family – especially Maddie, for whom I feel it will be especially important. Please send anything you have to nicole-100@hotmail.co.uk, by post to Navarac, Bank Rd, Aldington, TN25 7DE or leave a message with Lesley Wrxall. Poems, prayers, thoughts, photos, pictures, stories – all are welcome! Many thanks."