

A Worshipping Community - Sunday 12th July 2020 10am

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored bibles for our Year Six Leavers, again your generosity has been amazing, we will be giving them to our Year Six Leavers this week, please continue to pray for them as they move to secondary school in September especially through these challenging times. Please pray for our Headteacher Natalie and Deputy Head Amy, for all their staff and support team and for our Governing Body, may they have rest and peace this summer as they approach a new school year.

The Gospel reading this Sunday tells the parable of the sower.

If you are engaged in Christian ministry, and that means all who call themselves followers of Jesus, then this is an encouraging parable. Too often we feel sad and disillusioned that we are so slow to change the world, so poor at making those new disciples our churches want to see. Well slow down and listen to the words of Jesus to us this week, it is the Parable of the Sower, God is the sower and not us.

The work is not our work, the work is God's and we are called to share in this work, to co-operate in order for his will to be achieved.

It is true that we have the capacity within us to either work with God, or to completely do our own thing. God does not control us, he seeks to co-operate with us.

We all have that free decision, 'do I accept and follow God or not'?

However we should never think that God's purposes in the world will be achieved by us running faster or speaking louder, or inventing new discipleship programmes.

Following a successful foray last Sunday, where we received 8 communicants to the 8am and 26 to the 10am Services We will be resuming our regular worship at St Mary's for 8am BCP Holy Communion and a 10am service of Holy Communion which we are hoping to live stream but if this is not possible we will record and upload later. As soon as the service is uploaded it will be available on our Vimeo account.

This week's Service: <https://vimeo.com/stmarysnewick>

Please click or cut and paste the above link into your search bar.

Our service is available on the Church website under services <https://newickchurch.org/services-2/> together with printable order of service. Facebook Link: St. Mary's Church, Newick

Families and Owls; Don't forget Ali is on at 10am via St Mary's Facebook Page

Next week Ali is hosting Weds4CC (Wednesday 4 o'clock Craft Club) and Friday Bible time will be followed by Zoom

St Mary's is open for private prayer this week on Wednesday 9am until 12 noon and Saturday 1pm until 5pm, and for 8am Communion and 10am Service of the word on Sunday please keep a look out on Newick talk and St Mary's Church Website, for updates regarding opening for collective worship.

Attending Worship at St Mary's, Newick, During COVID19 – What To Expect! Before you arrive:

- We ask you to consider your own risk of attending an indoor gathering. While we will be taking a number of steps to keep you safe, we cannot make this risk-free. You might want to look at the NHS guidance on whether you are at higher risk of coronavirus and be guided by their advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>

- We ask you NOT to attend the service if you have:
 - A new cough
 - A temperature
 - Lost your sense of smell or taste
- You may want to bring your own hand sanitiser, although some will be available

- You are welcome to wear a mask/face covering. Please remember that face coverings protect others from your germs – they are not very good at protecting you from other people’s germs. They are not a replacement for good social distancing, hand hygiene, and self-isolating if you have symptoms

When you arrive

- When you arrive, we will take some contact details. These will be kept for 3 weeks after the service and given to Track and Trace if someone from the service later tests positive for coronavirus. They won’t be used for any other reason and if they are not needed for this purpose, they will be securely disposed of after 3 weeks.
- The welcome will let people into the building in households/bubbles. You will be asked to sanitise your hands on arrival, then go immediately to a seat in church.
- The seating in church will be arranged in ones and twos at 2m intervals from each other. We ask you to go straight to your seat and remain there for the duration of the service.
- Gentle music will be playing to help you pray as you wait for the service to begin.
- The doors will remain open during the service to allow some ventilation so you may notice it is a little cooler than you expect.

During

- The words you need for the service will be on a paper order of service on your seat or projected onto the screen. If you receive a paper copy (8am) this will then be your personal copy. Please take it home with you after the service and bring it back next time.
- The service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page, but those watching at home will only be able to see those on the chancel step e.g. the priest, someone leading the prayers etc. To ensure we include those worshipping at home, some elements of service (e.g. a reading, the prayers or a sermon) may be given by someone at home. You will be able to listen to the audio of this.
- Due to risk of aerosol spread, there will be no singing during the service.
- We ask that when you are saying the responses that you speak quietly and prayerfully – again to reduce risk of droplet spread.
- During distribution of communion, only bread will be distributed. The priest will wear a mask and wash their hands before distribution. The bread will be distributed from the chancel step, please remain standing to receive. Please form an appropriately distanced queue and return to your seat avoiding others. You might want to use your hand sanitizer (if you have brought some) before receiving communion.
- If you do not want to receive communion for any reason, that is absolutely fine – just place your hands across your chest and the priest will pray a blessing instead or remain in your seat.

At the end of the service

- After the priest has processed out, the welcomer will ask people to leave a row at a time.
- Please wait for the welcomer to ask you to leave.
- Please take any orders of service home with you.
- Please do not stop to chat while leaving the building. Once out of the building you are welcome to talk in small groups of not more than 6 in the churchyard.
- Please do not block other people’s exit from the building.
- Please remember to stay 2m apart from people from other households.
- If you test positive for coronavirus up to three weeks after the service, please let us know.

the Service

Prayer

Loving Lord, you invite us and welcome us whether we are weeping mournfully, singing joyfully or as seems to be the case at the moment not singing at all. To you we bring ourselves, our community and our world.

For those who rejoice and are filled with energy give ways to express their joy wisely and compassionately.

For those who are worried and apprehensive grant wisdom and peace.

For those who are eager to be out and about, to be with others, to be sociable, grant sensitivity and patience.

For those who are exhausted in body or in spirit,

let the lightness of being yoked to you bring comfort and encouragement.

Enable us and all decision makers to see the wider picture and to respond with your wisdom.

In your name we pray. Amen.

A prayer for Churches entering Interregnum

Lord, help all who worship in this Parish to be a people who respond to your calling. Develop your gifts in them, so that they may be Joyful in worship,

Constant in prayer, and united in their care for one another.
Call to this your church
A true shepherd,
A person of God
and a minister of Christ,
That together they may seek to know God and make Him known,
Within the church and your community
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

A Prayer for Mission

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers through private prayer, streaming, social media and always in spiritual
commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Coronavirus Prayer

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our
Lord. Amen.

Donations

Thank you to all those who have donated this week as you know St Mary's relies on donations. Especially
during the current coronavirus crisis our funding is reduced as public worship is suspended. If you would like to
change your giving, please contact Christopher our treasurer by email on mcmhume@outlook.com

You can also make donations online at <https://newickchurch.org/donations/>
Patsy & the pastoral team at St Mary's are doing an amazing job of supporting our community and our church
and your support makes a huge difference in how we are able to be Christ's eyes and ears in the parish.

Here is a short video about why our giving is so important
https://media.acny.uk/media/videocampaign/campaign_videos/video_5168385d-b521-4244-ac15-172fe82cb4d6.mp4

Have a blessed week
Keep Faith, Keep Praying, Keep Well and Keep Safe

With much love and continued prayers,

Paul