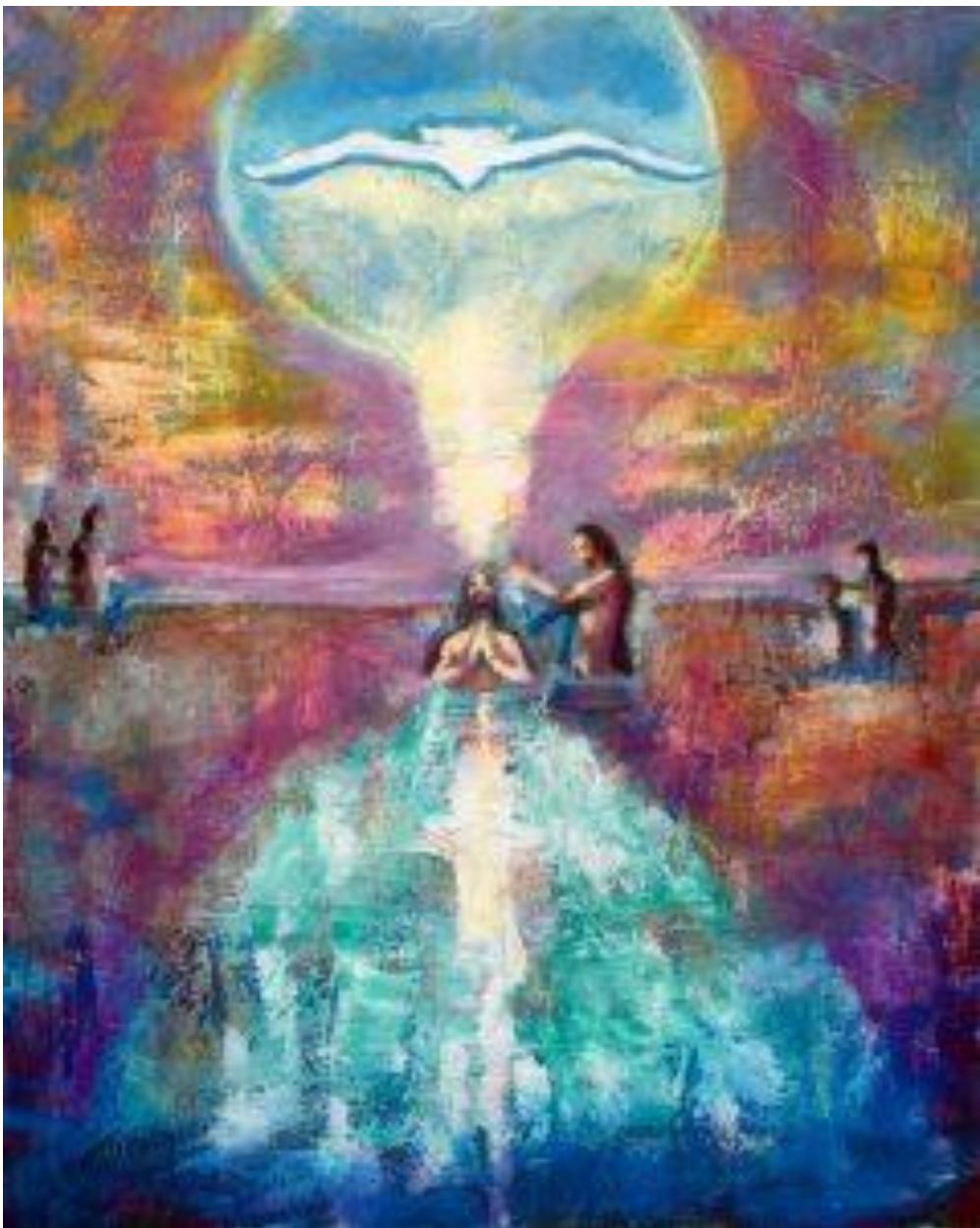


St. Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon
The First Sunday of Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ



January 10th 2021

A Message from our Rector

When the third Lockdown details were announced the Government stated that churches may remain open for communal worship which came as quite a surprise, but the final decision whether to close or stay open was left to each church to decide. This was the view taken by both the Diocese and the National church.

After much thought and prayer I have decided that, because of the virulent nature of the variant of the virus, the high numbers of infection and the age profile of our congregation, that it would be better not to meet for public worship when we are all being told to stay at home and not go out unless it is absolutely necessary. In order to do this, the PCC were invited to pass the following resolution;

“The PCC of Stoke D'Abernon wish to implement Canon B14A to suspend live services on the grounds that the congregation are elderly and vulnerable which we will review when the National lockdown is lifted”.

Canon B14A, part of Canon Law, which are the rules and regulations which govern the Church of England, states;

1. The reading of Morning and Evening Prayer as required by Canon B 11 or the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B 14 may be dispensed with as follows:

(a) on an occasional basis, as authorized by the minister who has the cure of souls and the parochial church council of each parish in the benefice acting jointly;

(b) on a regular basis, as authorized by the bishop on the request of the minister who has the cure of souls and the parochial church council of each parish in the benefice acting jointly.

The PCC, by a large majority, approved this resolution and the Bishop has given his consent.

A recent notice from Surrey CC stated that **20%** (1 in 5) of people having tests were positive. This also means that 4 in 5 people having tests were negative. The overall infection rate for Elmbridge is 770 per 100,000, which is **less than 1%**. This is higher than the average for England of 518 and is an **increase of about 20%** in the last week (source: BBC website). These figures are both stark and alarming and is reason enough not to allow our congregation to be exposed to possible infection.

I shall be continuing my daily message and there will be links, via the Leaflet and the website to the Cathedral and to St Mary's, Thorpe for live streamed services at 1000 on Sunday morning. I have not made this decision lightly and I hope that you understand why I have taken this action.

As one of my colleagues in a neighbouring parish put on Facebook;
"we are staying at home so that when we are back together, no one is missing".

I am delighted to tell you that St Mary's will be open for private prayer from 1000-1200 on Thursday and Sunday mornings. Please use the sanitiser and wipes on entry and departure.

Please continue to care for each other and to keep in regular contact. Please keep me informed of any concerns and be assured that I am always available to you.

With thoughts and prayers

Godfrey

Bible References 10 - 17th January 2021

Year B	Psalm	First reading	Second reading
1st Sunday of Epiphany January 10th	Psalm 29	Acts 19 : 1-7	Mark 1 : 4-11
Monday January 11 th	Psalm 97 : 1-2, 6-10	Heb 1 : 1-6	Mark 1 : 14-20
Tuesday January 12 th	Psalm 8	Heb 2 : 5-12	Mark 1 : 21-28
Wednesday January 13th	Psalm 105 : 1-9	Hebrews 2 : 14 - end	Mark 1 : 29 - 39
Thursday January 14 th	Psalm 95 : 1, 8-end	Heb 3 : 7-14	Mark 1 : 40 - end
Friday January 15 th	Psalm 78 : 3-8	Heb 4 : 1-5, 11	Mark 2 : 1-12
Saturday January 16th	Psalm 19 : 7-end	Heb 4 : 12 - end	Mark 2 : 13 - 17

Hyperlinks to Guildford Cathedral Services :

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services>

Collect 10th January 2021

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



Receive the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Parish Notices

Sunday Services at St. Mary's

We have decided to close St Mary's except for private prayer on Thursdays and Sundays for the foreseeable future. Please see Godfreys letter for further details.

Hall Opening

Sadly the hall has had to shut.

Post, emails and telephone calls to the Parish office will be monitored and responded to. Please address any general enquiries, in the first instance, to: admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk or Tel. 01932 866005

The weekly Parish leaflet will continue and be sent out on regular email distribution to those on the electoral role and others who have specifically requested it. Similarly, the St Mary's website will be updated to advise of any changes from the current situation.

The St Mary's Chat WhatsApp Group will continue to allow people to share their prayers and thoughts. Godfrey will continue to post his personal messages, including his Sunday message.

For those unable to access WhatsApp, my video messages are also available on this Website Home page and my Sunday messages also appear under **Sermons** on the **Quick Links** on this page.

We will continue with our regular postings of my video clips on Twitter and Instagram, so do follow us on **@StMarysstokedab**



If you are struggling with loneliness and need someone to talk to, or would like help with groceries or anything else, please don't hesitate to call either Polly in the Parish Office on 01932 866005 or Godfrey on 01932 868428. We are happy to help in any way we can.

Chair Yoga will continue on zoom for the foreseeable future

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7 - BsHIGkmVpnJCXR](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7-BsHIGkmVpnJCXR)

(If you cut and paste this into your browser it will automatically link you)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting ID; 858 5729 6019 Passcode: 35 44 47



It is with sadness we announce the death of Evelyn Trevena on Boxing Day aged 101. Her funeral will take place at St Mary's on Wednesday 20th January at 11.30am. If you wish to attend please contact James and Thomas Funeral Directors on 01932 862009 and ask them to put your name on the list. Due to restrictions only 30 people are allowed to attend.

Hey! Don't forget the ...

Here is the list of items most needed for our Foodbank.
Please can you help us by buying an item and putting it
in one of our collecting bins? Thank you for your help.

- Fruit juice 1L (UHT)
- Whole/Full fat milk 1L (UHT)
- Tinned fish
- Sponge puddings
- Liquid hand soap
- Floor cleaner
- Collecting



Dear Friends

I am sorry but due to the new lockdown requirements we have had to postpone the concert by pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School at St Mary's on 28 January. This will be rearranged once the regulations allow.

However, to give you music by the YMS pupils below are the links to all of the School's Winter Festival concerts – attached is the programme for these concerts.

Concert 1: <https://youtu.be/rLyHLq6i0lw>

Concert 2: <https://youtu.be/0OcYFG8KimM>

Concert 3: <https://youtu.be/roycj2NNBMA>

Concert 4: <https://youtu.be/61qJbvHbKYg>

Concert 5: <https://youtu.be/yT5YAoSvEdM>

Concert 6: <https://youtu.be/074lvitmgkc>

If you enjoyed the music and would like to support the next generation of classical musicians, please visit <https://www.menuhinschool.co.uk/donate> to donate securely online.

Hoping that you are keeping well and looking forward to seeing you before long at a St Mary's concert.

With all good wishes for 2021.

Richard

