

Dear members of St Marys

'Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.' Psalm 119:89

This verse - with its assurance that in an uncertain world there is a certain hope - was the springboard for the church staff prayers yesterday morning. As we prayed for individuals and families, for those involved in Sunday services and growth groups, and for our community, we were thankful that though isolated we are not alone, and that the LORD whose word is eternal is with us. We also gave thanks for the restart this week - in online meetings - of Wednesday Pathfinders and the Sunday JAM (older teenagers) group. And prayed that news of the Christianity Explored group which begins on Monday would reach all for whom this could help at this time.

At this Sunday evening's online prayer gathering we will pray for our country. An enormous national effort is being made to reduce infection and make arrangements for a gradual resumption of normal life. But it is a shock to hear that the UK has now recorded among the highest number of cases, and sadly deaths, world-wide. Whatever the reasons, we will not be able to say we were completely prepared, or got everything right. Far from it.

How we grieve the personal tragedy which coronavirus has brought to millions - including many among us - and the price in lives and resources we are paying. Lessons will need to be honestly learnt to protect people better in the future. But we should also pray that being brought to our knees as a country will be spiritually healthy. That we realise the things to which we pin our hopes can be taken away in a moment. And that many will discover the certain hope which is held out to all in the good news of Jesus Christ.

With love in Him

Peter

New this week

Sermons and Contacts

See the COVID-19 page on our website for a 'card' with details of sermons May-June and useful phone numbers. This Sunday we begin a new sermon series from the first letter of the apostle Paul to the church of the Thessalonians

Prayer Diary

Also on the COVID-19 page is the prayer diary for the next fortnight

Christianity Explored

Online version of this introduction to the Christian faith. Starting this Monday at 8pm.

Contact Phillip Young (01234 401462) or sign up here:

[https://stmaryswootton.churchsuite.co.uk/events/4h3xzctk?](https://stmaryswootton.churchsuite.co.uk/events/4h3xzctk?fbclid=IwARo_dSDZOW075wm02PQekfDccDb5145XlXnFWsSsNGlNeB3GVTIIVKXSEFw)

[fbclid=IwARo_dSDZOW075wm02PQekfDccDb5145XlXnFWsSsNGlNeB3GVTIIVKXSEFw](https://stmaryswootton.churchsuite.co.uk/events/4h3xzctk?fbclid=IwARo_dSDZOW075wm02PQekfDccDb5145XlXnFWsSsNGlNeB3GVTIIVKXSEFw)

Prom Praise

This weekend's Bible by the Beach convention in sunny Eastbourne has been cancelled. But you can enjoy a flavour of a big celebration at 7.30pm this Saturday evening with an online All Souls Prom Praise from London:

<https://www.allsoulsmusic.org/events/a-festival-of-hope-virtual-prom-praise/>

Annual Report

The PCC's annual report for 2019 is now available on the church website. www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

Services and events

Daily

8pm Prayer o'clock A daily pause for prayer in our homes, as near 8pm as you can make it

PTO

Sunday 3rd May

From 8am Morning Service On the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIOsYfZKLADo1u-Lyd08gV5Li62Mz-KKK>

Sermon over the phone : 01234 866195

11.30am Zoom Coffee Meet one another online - with break out groups so everyone can be heard

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88965219015?pwd=ZUF1RjUreTh5UStpVm1RcmpsTzkwUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 6521 9015

Password: 031033

7.15pm Prayer Gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87027408382?pwd=L1JUaVJLVkZYUlpMRllDYzBqWWY3UT09>

Meeting ID: 870 2740 8382

Password: 087588

7.15pm JAM (school years 9-13)

Contact Emma Hearn for details: saintmarysycw@gmail.com

Monday

8pm Christianity Explored

See above for details

Wednesday

7pm Pathfinders (school years 5-8)

Contact Phillip Young for details: saintmaryscurate@gmail.com 01234 401462

A song for the times

*When troubles come and hopes depart
in mercy, Lord, arise;
the ruined landscape of my heart
lies bare before your eyes.*

*Where human pride is humbled low
and crushed beneath your hand,
your solace, Lord, again bestow
and heal this broken land.*

*Though darkness seems to hide your face
amid earth's sin and pain,
break through the clouds, O God of grace,
restore my soul again.*

*The banner of your love unfurled
proclaims a sheltering arm;
no foes in all this fallen world
can bring your people harm.*

From Psalm 60, ©Timothy Dudley-Smith