

St Mary's Church Knowsley Village

Team Vicar: Rev Hugh Lea-Wilson, St Mary's Vicarage
Tithebarn Road, Knowsley Village L34 0JA tel 0151 546 4266
hugh1@btinternet.com www.knowsleychurch.co.uk



19th October 2020

Dear Friends at St Mary's

Autumn Letter

Well it's a month since I last wrote and we're now well into autumn: the leaves are half off many trees. On bright days we're drawn to worship as we marvel at God's creation-wonders; On grey days, we're not so sure and life seems bleaker and we're more aware of the gaps. Perhaps this mirrors where we feel as we continue through this strange season of lockdown, mourning many of the occasions and relationships enjoyed last year.

My apologies for not having been able to commit more time to visiting and keeping in contact, but we continue to pray for you, that you may be *'strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience'*, as Paul prayed for the Colossian believers (Colossians 1:11). Many messages are passed through the grapevine and we continue to meet to pray Tuesday mornings 10-11am if you'd like to join us.

It has also been a joy to have been meeting for worship in St Mary's for a full month, as set out in my last letter mid-September. We continue to listen to current guidance, but for now we are still meeting and would love you to join us if possible, assuring you that St Mary's is now as 'Covid-secure' as it possible can be.

Yesterday we combined our APCM with the morning service and attach a 4 page summary and update, based on the Annual Report for 2019. It reminds us of the wonderful year of 2019, and sets out some of the challenges before us as we look forward to next year.



But it also comes with the promise of God's word.

Yesterday we reminded ourselves of the verse that we set as our theme verse for 2020: **'Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will act'** Our job – to commit our way to the Lord and trust in Him; and we then hold on to his promise – that He will act – he will hold us and show us the way.



So be encouraged!

Today, a dozen of us from the 4 team churches were due to be going on a conference with several other churches from Liverpool Diocese called 'Leading your church into growth'. Sadly this has had to be postponed, for obvious reasons, but it remains our goal and our biggest prayer, that the church will grow – that more people will come to know Jesus, that our faith will grow, and that we can practically share our faith across our four church communities. Please join with us in praying this vision into reality, in being part of the answer!

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Our Vision: "To be an **'Open Door Church'** to share God's love for the world and be a community growing in the love of Jesus Christ"

together with our sister churches in the '4Saints Team':

St Jude's Stockbridge Village, St George's Huyton and St Luke's West Derby

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Looking ahead, it has been difficult to plan into November with certainty because of the changing Covid landscape, and because Julian Raffay our Interim Team Rector is moving on. But as things stand at present, this is what is being planned (as ever please check with the website for latest details – or ring me!):

October 25th 10.45am Julian's last service, with all 4 churches joining together on Zoom. Please join us if you can on video or phone in; joining details as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/6331974654?pwd=UnNXWVFjS21MNW5ZYmpFZjg4d1hHQT09>

Meeting ID: 633 197 4654 Password: 3131313 Or ring in on 0203 481 5240 with this ID/password

November 1st 10.45am Morning Worship. Another Zoom service for St Mary's and team; there will be a new meeting ID for this which will be given out on Oct 25th.

Nov 1st 5pm Memorial Service. The recently bereaved are being invited to join this online service via Zoom, and others who wish – along similar lines to the service in normal times.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328696105?pwd=R1cyUTISb29ZZVUxNXhPYWNvOE5lUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 2869 6105 Passcode: 524178 Or ring in on 0203 481 5240 with this ID/password

Nov 8th 10.45am Remembrance Service. There will be no civic service at war memorials this year, but we intend to hold an All-Age Service at 10.45am, including an Act of Remembrance at 11am, on a first come - first served basis. Capacity will be around 60, assuming couples and families sit together.

Midweek Services. It may well be that you would prefer to come to our midweek services. We have one every week, as follows, and it has been lovely to have had an array of lay leaders taking part in leading and preaching over the last month. Do join us!

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| • Tuesdays 10-11am | Open for prayer each week |
| • 1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 2pm 'Connect Wednesday' (Zoom; 60mins) |
| • 2nd & 4th Wednesdays | 2pm Common Worship service (40mins) |
| • 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 10am BCP service (40mins) |
| • Sundays 10.45am | Alternate weeks wherever possible – see website |

God bless, and see you soon!

Rev Hugh Lea-Wilson
Team Vicar, 4Saints Team (Huyton Deanery)

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