

Friends,

May the peace of God be rooted in your hearts and souls!



Church bells beyond the stars heard

I am sure that you have experienced moments of connection which are marvellous, profound, fleeting and so hard to describe. These can be seconds of great intimacy with another person, or experiences of great beauty in landscape and music, or those rare times when we feel more fully aware of a deeper presence that we can only call 'God'. In his poem "Prayer", George Herbert offers multiple descriptions of these fleeting moments which are so hard to capture in words. It finishes:

*A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.*

I knew the priest who ministered to Anthony Blunt in his last days, after it had been revealed that he had been for many years a Russian spy. Blunt had retreated to a flat in West London, seldom venturing out, isolated, scared, depressed. The priest asked 'what still gives you hope?' Blunt answered: 'the sound of church bells'. It can be such an evocative sound: inviting, beckoning us to closeness as we gather for worship, reaching out to us (as the sound travels for miles).

With all this in mind, I was delighted to hear that our bell ringers will be sounding out the church bells on Friday 8th May. At 2:55pm, a lone bugler will play the Last Post and Reveille from the Castle Grounds. At 3pm, one bell from each of the towers of Holy Trinity, St Mary's and St Nicolas will sound together, 75 times, acknowledging the service of all those who contributed to Victory in Europe, and inviting us now to consider those who are leading us back to full health now.



More services on Zoom including a special Choral Evensong

Our Sunday services on Zoom are proving so popular that we have decided to hold identical services at 10am and 11am. This Sunday, Jonathan Hedgecock will be reflecting on John 14: “in God’s house there are many dwelling places”. There will be opportunities for coffee and chat after each of these services.

The 10:30am St Mary’s Church-at-Home continues. It was so encouraging to see about 60 people involved last Sunday – significantly more than have usually been attending St Mary’s!

There will also be a special online Choral Evensong Service this Sunday 10th May at 6pm marking the VE anniversary.

We are keen that you can all take part in these services, if you wish. If you are having difficulty with accessing them because of IT difficulties, please be in touch with the Parish office.

Links to services available online and by phone

Zoom links are sent out by email only. [SUBSCRIBE HERE](#) if you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive this newsletter and links to Zoom services by email.

Sunday 10th May 8am Holy Communion	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 10th May 10am Eucharist & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 10th May 10.30am Church at Home	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 10th May 11am Eucharist & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 10th May 6pm Choral Evensong	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
<u>Midweek Pause to Pray</u>	<u>SERVICES ON VIDEO</u>

Weekday 8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	<u>WEEKDAY PRAYER</u>
Saturday 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	<u>SATURDAY PRAYER</u>
Download Zoom Link and call-in details	<u>HTSM NEWSLETTER</u>

What's happening with our church life

As well as offering pastoral care and providing a wide range of worship and prayer throughout the week, you may like to know what other normal activities are still happening (even if it is in unusual ways). Please [email the Parish office](#) if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation to take part in any of the **activities listed below**.

Common Ground Community meets online each Tuesday from 8 - 9pm. Join us for a reflection, time to share life experiences and time for prayer.

ChitChat meets online each Wednesday from 10 - 11am. Join us if you are from another country and are finding it difficult to cope with speaking English or with the challenges of living away from your home country.

Café Club, for 12-15 years old, meets online each Thursday afternoon with children and families coordinator Pippa Mitchell.

Upper Room, led by Jonathan Hedgecock, will meet online Tuesday 19th May at 8pm for an evening of conversation on a topical theme.

Trinity Club next meets online Tuesday 26th May at 10:30am with Venetia Howes leading a discussion: "The Livery Companies of the City of London – where philanthropy meets gastronomy".

Also, Holy Trinity choirs (boys, girls and adults) are meeting online for short rehearsals each week to learn some new music and sing through some old favourites. You can listen to their offerings to date on the [Holy Trinity St Mary's YouTube channel](#).

This is, no doubt, an incomplete list. It would be great to hear from you about what I have missed.

Finally

Please be in touch with me or the Parish office if you know of a person (or family) who is increasingly struggling, because of changed circumstances – say, with employment or loss of routine. I can only offer support if I know what is happening – and I will do so sensitively. Contact details are below.

Please remember in your prayers the families of those who have recently died:

- David Maclachlan (father-in-law of Martin Harris)
- Margaret Nockolds (Jenny's mother)
- Rose Storey (mother of Gillian Spencer, whose funeral is on Tuesday 19th May)
- Winifred Twidell (whose funeral is on Tuesday 12th May)
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With gratitude for all you are and do.

Robert

7th May 2020

P.S. If there is news that we should know please pass it on:

Rev Robert Cotton: rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 575489

Rev Tom Pote: curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 511725

Parish Office: office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

Please make sure we have an up to date email and phone number for you.
