

# Holy Trinity St Mary's



## Friends,

In Ancient Greece all actors wore masks with extra-large features while on stage, not in order to distance themselves but actually so as to achieve better engagement and communication with their sometimes far-distant audience. How could the audience know that the person was an actor (and therefore was seeking to perform a character) unless they were fully dressed, including a mask? So, the mask was a symbol of wanting to communicate. Only many centuries later did the idea arise that a mask could hide someone's "real" intentions. We now generally interpret masks as signs of hypocrisy and unreality. Perhaps that explains some of the reluctance to wearing them now.

## Masks and worship at Holy Trinity

I have to admit that I am finding some difficulties with mask-wearing. My glasses steam up. I do not have good hearing, so I rely to some extent on lip-reading. And by association, I want people to see my lips and face when I am preaching, for example, so that they can engage fully with me and my message. That said, I recognise the health benefits of mask-wearing – both for myself and those around me. We are not

making masks compulsory at worship, while the medical and government guidance is rather equivocal. We will follow regulations as they change. All we can do now is to encourage you to protect yourself and to have concern for your neighbours.

At a practical level, it is very clear that we are all safer in well ventilated environments. During worship at HT, the doors are left open, ensuring a steady flow of fresh air. We're not yet sure what we will do when October chill and rain comes – but that's a few months away! It is interesting to note that the advice for Primary Schools is explicitly that people should not wear masks, as other matters need to be considered such as safeguarding. So, this is a complex issue – and will be made only more challenging as/when singing is allowed in church!

To help keep Holy Trinity as a resourceful church, 'Tricia McIntosh writes:

*"Should you require a face mask, there will be a selection of cotton washable masks on sale in Holy Trinity at £5 each from this Sunday. Made by a Guildfordian, the proceeds will feed 70 very poor families in Ecuador. Please buy and wear, thank you!"*

A few simple practical reminders about worship at HT:

- Those welcoming you will be wearing a mask.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at each door
- If you wish to wear a mask, please bring your own.
- The accessible toilet will be open for use. Even better: "please go before you come to church"!
- There will be a paper copy of the words of the service on each seat.
- Currently, no singing is allowed.
- At the distribution of communion, you will be offered bread only.

## **News from around Guildford**

Katharine Lovatt writes: *"SpareHand is a COVID-19 response initiative that connects charities to local volunteers. We are looking for volunteers to sign up in Guildford to support local organisations including Number Five and Vaughan House. SpareHand facilitates micro-volunteering, so you don't need to commit every week and can just do a shift as and when you are able to! If this is of interest, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/sparehand>. Thank you! Feel free to contact [katharinelovatt16@gmail.com](mailto:katharinelovatt16@gmail.com) with any questions, or with suggestions for local charities we could support.*

*We're also looking for one or two Hub Leads to help us grow in Surrey. Looking for enthusiastic people who can commit to 5 hours a week for a period of ideally 6 months. We're a start-up, so the work will be hands-on with plenty of responsibility and has a great team spirit."*

I have heard from two members of the congregation: "we have already signed up for this. We have done some jobs for them and found it easy to do." Be encouraged!

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## As we enter the summer season

**Morning Prayer** will continue on a daily basis (Monday to Friday at 8:30am, Saturday at 9:30am). If you use the Zoom link, you will be joining a group of about 10 people. It's easy to drop in, once in a while or on a regular day. You will only be asked to do a reading if you feel comfortable with that. Some prefer to remain silent for the 20-minute service. The leader will guide you through the service – a peaceful start to the day.

**Sunday worship** will continue – on Zoom from St Mary's at 10:30am, and from Holy Trinity at 10am (which is also "live"). Do consider attending this worship wherever you may be, enjoying the sun in the Lake District, or in your pyjamas when camping in the rain! We are pleased that we can now include contributions to the service at Holy Trinity from those Zooming at home. The 8am Holy Communion service will continue weekly.

**The weekly letter** will continue – but there will no longer be an email reminder on Saturday. Thank you to everyone for making our pattern of communications and worship work so well. It's always helpful to have feedback and appreciation.

**Opportunities for children and young people** will continue till the end of July, and take a complete break in August. This includes Café Club, Sunday Chat room and letters/videos. The choirs have already begun their summer break.

**Midweek Pause to Pray** will continue for two more weeks, completing the series on the "Fruits of the Spirit" with gentleness and self-control. Sunday Pause to Pray will continue through the summer, on a weekly basis.

"**More tea, vicar?**" is now closed. We are very keen to keep in touch with each other, and will be looking for new ways of doing this from early September. Suggestions welcome.

**The What's on page** of the parish website is the way to keep up to date with what is happening now. As lockdown is gradually eased, some [parish activities are opening up again](#) – and some are doing this in fresh ways.

## Sunday worship and Pause to Pray

- Robert is preaching this Sunday at Holy Trinity on Matthew 5.20–26.
- Keith Beckingham's reflection at St Mary's this Sunday will be on Matthew 13: 24–30 and 36–43.
- [Anne Marriott is reflecting on faithfulness](#), to the series on the "Fruits of the Spirit", in the Midweek Pause to Pray.
- Young Holy Trinity: watch out for the letter from Pippa and Tom tomorrow.

With best wishes,

Robert  
15th July 2020

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## Links to services, morning prayer and service sheets

[SUBSCRIBE](#) to this newsletter to receive the Zoom Links to services (sent by email only).

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 8am Holy Communion</b>	<a href="#">SERVICE SHEET</a>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 10am Eucharist &amp; coffee</b>	<a href="#">SERVICE SHEET</a>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am Church-at-home</b>	<a href="#">SERVICE SHEET</a>
<b><a href="#">Pause to Pray</a></b>	<a href="#">SERVICES ON VIDEO</a>
<b>Weekday 8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom</b>	<a href="#">WEEKDAY PRAYER</a>
<b>Saturday 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom</b>	<a href="#">SATURDAY PRAYER</a>
<b>Download Zoom links and call-in details</b>	<a href="#">HTSM NEWSLETTER</a>

*If there is news that we should know please pass it on:*

Rev Robert Cotton: [rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk)

01483 575489 (on leave 22nd July to 4th Aug)

Rev Tom Pote: [curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk)

01483 511725 (on leave 8th to 22nd Aug)

Parish Office: [office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 567716

*Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you.*

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