



Update on services and streaming

Now that we have services back in both our buildings (still observing regulations around face masks, social distancing, and hand sanitiser, etc.) we have been streaming the services as they happen to Facebook. You can watch these live, or catch up at a later date. You can find them here: www.facebook.com/stmarysandstfaiths/live/

You don't need a Facebook account to watch the videos. As well as this we take that video, edit it down, and then upload just the sermon from it to our YouTube and Facebook page.

Facebook is not as interactive as Zoom was. If you tune in on Facebook, you see me, but I don't see you! And we don't get to chat to one another after the service.

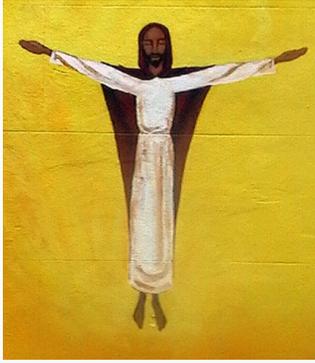
A good way to overcome this might be to remind you of our weekly Bible Studies on Zoom on a Tuesday evening (see on). They last just an hour and are very interactive. These happen every week in 'term time', with the material that we cover changing every 6-8 weeks or so. It is a time for us to grow closer to God, and to grow closer to one another.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

We are in the midst of an eight week study called, 'The Character Course'.

Put simply, the Character Course brings together the most up-to-date psychology with ancient biblical wisdom. In eight sessions, it covers key themes of Christian discipleship: learning, hope, love, forgiveness, gratitude, humour, persistence and curiosity.

Bible study is not on this coming week, but our next meeting is the **11th May** at 7.30pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>



Ascension Day Service

Thursday 13th May is Ascension Day. We shall have an Ascension Day service at St. Mary's at 7.30pm which we shall also stream.

We may not be in the habit of coming to church midweek, but I like to think of Ascension Day as being the exclamation point at the end of the sentence, 'Christ is Risen!'

I hope you might be able to join us or follow along on Facebook.

Annual Church Meeting 16th May 2021

Last year we had our Annual Church meeting as part of our Sunday worship. One of the main reasons for this was doing so allowed us to meet in person - gathering weren't allowed unless they were for worship.

This year we shall do the same as it again means we can meet in person, but also, although it results in a slightly different service of worship, it does mean there will likely be more people coming along. It is a bit easier to come to on a Sunday morning than a midweek evening!

How will we have an Annual Church meeting as part of a Sunday service?!

Both of the services in the benefice will be at the same time and place - 9 - 10am at St Faith's and 10.15 - 11.15am at St. Mary's.

The service will begin with a hymn, some opening sentences, a prayer, and then the Bible reading and a sermon. At that point we shall have the Annual Church meeting before closing with a hymn and a prayer.

What happens in the meeting part of that?

The Annual Church Meeting has a number of items in it that have to legally happen - these do not have to take long; especially not if we do most of 'the business' in the run up to the meeting. By that I mean, you may have a question about how the parish church is run: you don't have to wait until the Annual Meeting to ask that question - you can ask me, a churchwarden, a member of the PCC or our Reader, Richard Genochio any time you like.

Here is what will happen in the meeting:

- We elect the Churchwardens for the following year
- We discuss briefly what happens in last year's meeting (if we can remember) and any matters arising.
- We adopt the electoral roll. The people on the roll can take an active part in the Annual Church Meeting and are eligible to be a member of the PCC. If you live in the parish and/or

worship regularly at the church you can be added to the role - forms are available at church. It would be great if you did want to go on the roll!

- We elect members of the PCC, a treasurer and a secretary.

- There are reports from the Rector and the treasurer. If you like you can ask questions (but you don't have to wait until then!)

Because our meeting last year was delayed, our last meeting was in October 2020 and I don't think much will change from then - although I do think there may be one or two small changes. However, if you would like to be more involved, especially with the PCC, do chat to me, a churchwarden, a member of the PCC or our Reader, Richard Genochio.

Please do come along to our Sunday worship on the 16th May and be part of our Annual Church meeting. Both are very important and we would love to have you at both!

Joint Benefice Pentecost Service

Do join us at St. Faith's Kelshall for a Joint service at **10am** on Sunday 23rd May



Upcoming Dates

- Morning Contemplation and prayer every Tuesday at 8.45am. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>
- Bible Study on Tuesday 11th May at 7.30pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830> will be the fifth of our eight week course called 'The Character Course'.
- Sunday and Wednesday Food Share from 11.30am
- Morning Prayer is every Thursday at 10am Log in to Zoom and enter meeting ID: 245 025 8414
- Ascension Day service Thursday 13th May 7.30pm at St. Mary's Therfield
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting for both parishes Sunday 16th May in the normal service
- Pentecost Sunday Joint Benefice All Age Service Sunday 23rd May
- Therfield Village Fete on the afternoon of the 3rd July 2021
- Jazz Concert at the Rectory 17th July 2021

Dates from The Diocese

Here are some training opportunities from the diocese. These aren't always suitable for everyone, so do be in touch to ask. Many of them are very helpful and inspiring:

- Thursday 20th May 'Zoom Cafe: Making the most of Baptisms'. Free and informal online event on Zoom. See <https://fb.me/e/262zODeMB>
- Wednesday 16th June 10am-3pm **Growing Generous Giving**. The day is intended for clergy and readers and leaders in mission, but is open to all interested parties. Free but book [here](#).
- Saturday 3rd July 9.30am - 12pm **Mission Action Plan Refresh Webinar**. Free but book [here](#)
- 6pm Friday 15th - 3pm 17th October **Leading your Church into Growth Conference** for all clergy and readers and leaders in mission, three days to inspire, encourage and equip you on growing 'normal' parish churches. At the heavily subsidised price of £85 (this includes full board at the lovely High Leigh conference centre in Hoddesdon). For more info do ask. Once you have all the info you need you can book [here](#)