

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday:

6.30pm Choral Evensong
Hymns: 826, 192, 209

This week:

Weekdays:

Mon – Fri 8.30am Morning Prayer
Weds 10.00am Holy Communion
(followed by open church)

Next Sunday:

8.00am **6th Sunday of Easter**
10.00am Holy Communion
Holy Communion

Readings:

Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29

Supporting ministry and mission at St Mary's

It costs about £1,600 a week to run St Mary's. If you would like to support the work of the church by regular monthly donations, please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Forms are available at the back of church, or you can sign up by phone on 0333 002 1260 or online at parishgiving.org.uk. Donations can also be made by bank transfer to PCC St Mary's Church Selly Oak, sort code 40-11-20, account number 41565818. A Gift Aid declaration will add 25% to the value of your donations without cost to you – please ask a warden for a form.

Parish ministry team

Clergy

Revd Hazel White – 0121 4713517

Revd Jayne Adams 07894 167552

Revd David Parker 0121 445 1901/07532 338961

Licensed Reader

Mary Cutler 0121 472 3343

Church Wardens

George Harrison: 07831 573169 Martin Sorby 07982 850 444

Please note: Hazel usually observes Friday as her day off.

If you have any notices to add to the TWS, please email sarahjherbert@aol.com by the end of Tuesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's edition.

www.stmaryselloak.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/stmaryselloak/>

Parish of Selly Oak St Mary



TWS

This Week Sheet

Welcome

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 15th May 2022

Hymns: 207 387 365 471 475

Collect:

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Readings:

Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Post Communion Prayer:

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For your prayers:

Those who are unwell: Chris Dukes, Rosemarie Okot, Diana Smith, Vicky Todd, Pat Westwood

Those who have died: Betty Stephens, Iris Hobbs, Maureen Cale, Albert Amos, Kenneth Tolley, Eileen Humphries, Alan Gilliver, Pauline Duggins, John Waterstreet

If you would like to be added to our prayer list, or know someone else who would like our prayers, please email sarahjherbert@aol.com or speak to one of the clergy.

Church of England Birmingham Praying Together:

<https://www.cofebirmingham.com/being-a-christian/cofeb-praying-together/church-of-england-birmingham-praying-together-may-2022/church-of-england-birmingham-praying-together--may-2022.php>

St Mary's is here to proclaim and celebrate the love of God for all.

Diary dates

May

Sun 15 th	11.15am	APCM
Mon 16 th	9am	Doctors filming in church
Sat 21 st	10.15am	Ramble and pub lunch
Mon 23 rd	7pm	Ministry team meeting
Tues 24 th	7pm	PCC in church
Thurs 26 th &	2pm	St Mary's CofE School
Fri 27 th	9.30am	Services in church
Thurs 26 th	7pm	Ascension Day service, St Gabriel's
Sun 29 th	6.30pm	Taizé service
Mon 30 th	3pm	Wedding
Tues 31 st	1pm	Funeral in Church

June

Sat 11 th	tbc	Car boot sale
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Current guidance on keeping safe

Please be aware of the updated NHS guidance on Covid symptoms. Masks are no longer compulsory in places of worship, but you are strongly encouraged to wear one when coming to receive communion. Please be sensitive to those who may prefer some space around them. For the time being we are offering bread only at the distribution of communion.

Ascension Day

We are invited to join the other churches in our Cluster (St Gabriel's Weoley Castle and St Michael and All Angels' Bartley Green) for an evening service on Ascension Day, Thursday 26th May at 7pm. This year the service will be at St Gabriel's Weoley Castle Church Centre (B29 5PL), all welcome.

Taizé Worship, Sunday 29th May 6.30pm

The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order based in France, with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Taizé worship is peaceful and meditative in style, with the repetition of sung chants and prayers, periods of silence, and readings from the Bible. Why not come along and give it a try?

Twenty Questions Jesus Asked: And How They Speak To Us Today

In this book by John Pritchard, twenty questions that Jesus asked are examined, together with reflections on their significance for us as modern Christians today. The ministry team will be hosting group discussions based on chapters from this book on Tuesday mornings 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th June 10-11.30am, or Thursday evenings 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th June 7.30-9pm. Sign up lists are at the back of church.

Ramble - Saturday 21st May - Clent Hills

Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start at The Vine Inn, Clent, DY9 9PH. The ramble will take us over parts of Adams Hill and Walton Hill, as well as paying a visit to St Kenelm's Church. Warning - the first part is steep (owing to the fact that I can't find a way of getting to the top of the hill without going up!) Lunch: meet 12.30 for 12.45 (I have high hopes the ramblers won't get lost this time!) Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. NB I need to know your meal choices by Tuesday 17th May. Any questions, see me. Kate

Foodbank update

Many thanks for your continued support for the food bank. They are currently short of the following: squash, tinned spaghetti, instant meals for example pasta 'n sauce, microwave rice, pot

noodles, shower gel, shampoo, men and women's deodorant, toothpaste. Donations of these items would be particularly appreciated.

Car Boot Sale, Saturday 11th June

Pitches for sale @ £10. Help welcomed – please see Kate or John Surtees for more information.

Church Summer Fete, Saturday 9th July

Details to follow, but anyone with ideas for running a stall, or who can offer help on the day, please see Kate, Miriam or Jayne.

St Mary's Annual Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 15th May following the 10am service. The meeting is open to all members of the church and includes the annual election of churchwardens, and elections to the PCC. There are a number of vacancies on the PCC, please contact Hazel if you would like to find out more about what's involved. Annual Reports are available to read on the Church website.

Book Group

We are enjoying being able to meet in the lounge at Bridgewater Court, and it has also been good to welcome some new members. Our next meeting will be at 7.30 on Wednesday 25th May, when we will be talking about The Diary of a Nobody by George and Weedon Grossmith – a change from all previously advertised texts for May!

Living in Love and Faith Deanery course

LLF (Living in Love and Faith), hosted by Revd Dele Sotonwa and Revd Jenni Crewes will take place on Thursday evenings from 5th May to 2nd June, 7:30-9:00pm at St Boniface Church, Quinton. The intention of Living in Love and Faith is not to change anyone's existing position but to offer a space to prayerfully listen to, hear, and try to understand stories and perspectives different from our own. The course extends a bold and hopeful invitation to explore together questions of identity, sexuality, relationships, and life together.

The Readings

This week our readings are all about new ways of doing things. In Peter's report to the Church in Jerusalem, he explains how ancient Jewish rituals are no longer of paramount importance, especially if they are used to deny anyone access to God. In Revelation, John writes poetically of the arrival of a new heaven and a new earth and the passing away of what had gone before. Jesus, in the Gospel reading, makes plain his new commandment: *as I have loved you, love one another*.

It might seem straightforward enough to us now that some aspects of Old Testament Jewish law do not sit well alongside the teachings of Jesus. It might seem obvious to us that what we eat is not going to affect either what is in our heart or how much we love or are loved by God. But whilst the rules may change, we are just as prone now to creating and adhering to ideas of what we consider to be acceptable, both to ourselves and to God.

This week's readings should perhaps be taken as a warning and a message of hope. We are all capable of excluding or making others feel unwelcome, in many different ways, and should be on our guard against it. However, we should also rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus makes being accepted by God so simple; all we have to do is love each other. This may not be an easy thing to do, but it is a very easy thing to understand, and secure in the knowledge that we will always be forgiven if we fall short, there should be nothing to stop us from trying. Kate Cheyney