

A Message From The Bishops Of Devon

The Rt Rev'd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, The Rt Rev'd Nick McKinnel, Bishop of Plymouth, and The Rt Rev'd Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton, are urging churches to pray for an end to the suffering of the people of Yemen, as millions face the threat of starvation in the world's worst humanitarian crisis today. The Bishops are responding to the calls of leading faith-based international development agencies who are appealing to churches and mosques to pray for the desperate situation in Yemen where more than 14 million people face starvation and 85,000 children may have already died from extreme hunger since 2015. The full News Release is on the notice board at the back of Church and a prayer for you to use is below. Thank you.

A Prayer For Yemen

Giver of Life, who hears the cries from Yemen; of mothers choosing between medicine or food, of parents grieving children lost to starvation, of those who have given up everything in hunger, hear our cry for hope, for change, for peace. In your mercy, break political deadlocks, soften hardened hearts, change closed minds, open unhearing ears. Let people come before power. Let life be holy again. Let your justice and peace shape the nation of Yemen and the lives of all people. Amen.

Safeguarding Officers

Sara Grier is our nominated Safeguarding Officer and is the nominated person responsible for vulnerable adults. Jo Parker is the nominated Safeguarding person responsible for children. Their photos are on the Church noticeboard in the porch, together with photos of the Vicar, Revd David Gill, and your Churchwardens, Andy King and Susanne Burnett.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Derriford United Reformed Church will be hosting this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service on Friday 1st March at 2pm. The service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia and we are all invited to join the members of Derriford URC, and also to take part in the service by doing some of the readings. If you are interested in taking part, men as well, please let Revd David Gill know. It is hoped to have the various parts sorted out for a rehearsal on Friday 22nd February at Derriford URC.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

There are currently 2 vacancies on the PCC this year. Forms are at the back of Church for your nominations. Candidates must sign to say they are willing to attend and must have a proposer and seconder. Please prayerfully consider if you could stand for election. Members of the PCC are elected for 3 years but can elect to stand again at the end of their tenure.

Notice of Preparation of New Church Electoral Roll

Every six years each parish is required to prepare a new electoral Roll. During the period of preparation of the roll, members on the current roll need to apply to be included – inclusion is not automatic. New people can also apply during this period. Application forms are available from myself and are also in folder at the back of the church. These forms must be received by myself not later than 10th March. The new Roll will come into operation on 17th March. During the time between 17th March and the APCM, 5th April, corrections can be made to the entries on the roll but no names can be added or removed during this period. This can only happen after the APCM. Thank you.

Pat Brooks, Electoral Roll Officer

Lone Working

If you have to do any work on your own in the Church or Church Hall, please notify someone that you are going and how long you expect to be. Then notify them when you have finished. If possible have a mobile phone with you. This applies to everyone, even volunteers, whether cleaning, flower arranging or climbing ladders! A Lone Working Policy will soon be included within a Health & Safety section in our Safeguarding Policy which will be available at the back of Church or on our Church website at www.saintmarys.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events

Women's World Day of Prayer	2pm	Friday 1st March
Messy Church at Southway	4pm	Saturday 2nd March
Pancake Party at The Vicarage	6.30pm	Tuesday 5th March
Proposed Churchyard Tidy Up Day		Saturday 16th March
APCM	7.30pm	Friday 5th April
Beetle Drive	7.30pm	Saturday 6th April
Proposed Church Hall Cleaning Day		Saturday 13th April
Carnival Concert	6pm	Wednesday 8th May
May Carnival	2pm	Saturday 11th May
Carnival Service	10am	Sunday 12th May
Christian Aid Week Event	2pm	Saturday 18th May
Messy Church at St Mary's	4pm	Saturday 18th May

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker at the 6.30pm Evening Worship service next Sunday is Dr Leonie Boland, from the School of Health Professions at Plymouth University. Her PhD, funded by the Catherine Mounter bequest for Occupational Science research, looked at the problems people face when they first move into rented accommodation after having been homeless.

Catherine Mounter was a close friend of David and Fenny's family, and a lecturer in Occupational Therapy/Occupational Science at Plymouth until shortly before her death in 2009.