

First Reading Isaiah 60: 1 – 9

¹ 'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ 'Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. ⁷ All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple. ⁸ 'Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests? ⁹ Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honour of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.

Second Reading John 2: 1 - 11

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.' ⁴ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.' ¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Unwanted Glasses

The Lions Club of Plymouth are still collecting unwanted glasses for people in countries that need them. Please place any unwanted pairs in the box at the back of Church. Cases are not essential. Thank you.

Amazon Echo

If anyone has an Amazon Echo they can now access prayers, church and Bible information by saying "Open the Church of England".

Normal Service Is Resumed (Nearly)

We have now restarted our pre-covid pattern of services at St Mary's, with some exceptions due to various events.

The congregation are now permitted to sing at services.

The Choir are now permitted to sit nearer each other and are allowed to all sing together, without masks. They are now robing for services again.

Both the Church doors will be open to supply fresh air and ventilation as long as the weather remains favourable.

There will be no change to how the Holy Communion is administered to the congregation, i.e. in one kind.

We will continue to share the peace without handshakes.

There will not be a collection taken during the service but the plate will be on the table at the back of Church as usual and will be presented to the altar during the offertory hymn. This means envelopes and any money should be placed on the plate before the service, please.

The sidesperson rota and the reader rota have restarted for all services, and also the intercessions rota, but not the Chalice Assistant rota.

Readings and Prayers are now being read from the lectern, and not the pulpit.

Christmas Cards

Please can you pay any money to Revd David Gill that you have pledged to ShelterBox, in lieu of sending individual Christmas Cards this year. Thank you.

Safeguarding Officer

We are very pleased to announce that Gill Camp has agreed to be our new Safeguarding Officer. Huge thanks go to Sara Grier for her work in that role over the last 10 or 11 years.

Refreshments

Refreshments are now being served at St. Mary's after the 10am services. It has been suggested, in order to be more environmentally friendly, as well as saving the Church some money (and some washing up), we are inviting you to bring your own reusable coffee cups or drinking vessels. You will, probably, also have a larger cuppa by doing so!

Bring and Share Lunch

Both St. Mary's and The Church of the Holy Spirit have commenced planning for a Bring and Share lunch to mark the retirement of Rev. Preb. David Gill after the Morning Service on Sunday 30th January in St. Mary's Church Hall. There is an attendance list in both Churches which will help us with regards numbers and catering. Please add your name to one of the lists as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. There is a second list which shows savouries and sweets, and what amount we think we will need. Please add your name and what amount you are able to contribute towards what we require. Further details will be available nearer the date. Thank you all, and we all look forward to meeting up on 30th January.