

Second Reading Romans 6: 1 – 11

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!

Vacancies

One of the roles that will be vacant following Revd David and Fenny's departure is that of 'Jill', one of our puppets at the Together@Ten services. If anyone feels they could help with this, please let Andy know. Thank you.

Also, if anyone would like to help with playing music for the Together@Ten services, you would be most welcome. We usually only have 3 songs, and one of those is always 'Everybody's Welcome', so hopefully not too much of a daunting prospect. Again, please speak to Andy or Pat Eyres if you think you can help. Thank you.

End of 8am Holy Communions (BCP)

Unfortunately, we have had to take the decision to call an end to the 8am Holy Communion Services at St. Mary's. Sadly, it will not be viable to continue to hold these services as we cannot expect, or afford to pay, a visiting vicar to cover the services with such small numbers.

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, though the members of the congregation are required to wear masks when doing so.

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

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.

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. It will be the 5th Sunday of the month so it will be a Team Service at 10am and the congregation from Holy Spirit will join us for that.

There is an attendance list in both Churches which will help us with regards numbers and catering. If you are hoping to attend, 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.