



ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH // FAMILY NEWS

31st January 2021

Welcome to **SMB** online!

We are a church looking to follow Christ's call to
'Be Holy and Be a Blessing'

Welcome to St Mary Bredin (SMB) and a special welcome if this is your first visit. We hope you enjoy your time with us and quickly feel at home here. We are a church looking to follow Christ's call to 'Be Holy and Be a Blessing' and we love welcoming others into the church family to join us on that journey. We would love to say hello to you so please do get in touch.

God bless, Barney

Today at **SMB Online**

11:00am | **Morning Worship**

(LiveStreamed on the SMB YouTube channel)

with Youth and Children's Work

An attitude of gratitude

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-22

Speaker: Stephen Carter

This week

Monday to Friday – Morning Prayers at 9:10am

Thursday - Make Lunch food parcels

(from 2:30pm packing, from 3:30pm delivering)

Thursday - Student Night online at 7:30pm

Ministry Letter - from our curate, Charmaine

Dear SMB family,

Lent is fast approaching us, and so here are some resources that might encourage you in your devotional life through Lent. It may be your practice to give up something for Lent, and fasting from something whether that's from chocolate or fasting for a day, is a great spiritual discipline that can focus us and increase our prayer life. Maybe this Lent you may want to try taking something up rather than giving something up. On Sunday I spoke about our secret devotional life, and if this has been a struggle for you, maybe Lent is a time to begin, to take up reading your bible daily again; it's said we have to do something for 28 days for it to become a habit, so 40 days of Lent should establish it well as a pattern. The 'Bible in a Year' app may be one way to do this. Or you may want to focus on Lent specifically and here are some recommendations.

Many of the Fellowship Groups are going to be using Steven Croft's 'Exploring God's Mercy'. Ed Drew's 'Meals with Jesus' is a great book for working through Luke's gospel for families. And if you are looking for a daily devotional, Biola University's Centre for Christianity Culture & the Arts has a Lent project; there will be a daily thought with art, music and poetry - <http://ccca.biola.edu/events/2021/feb/16/lent-project-2021-devotional/>

To start Lent we will have an online Ash Wednesday Service on the 17th of February at 9:10am via zoom, instead of the normal Morning Prayer. If you don't already have the link for Morning Prayer, then do get in touch with the church office so you can join us for this.

May this Lent be a time for us to refocus again on the great hope that Easter brings, that death has been conquered and no longer has the final say, that Jesus' resurrection gives us the promise of an eternity spent in his presence.

God bless, *Charmaine*

Events & Notices

News from Bex Henderson, our mission partner in Uganda

Covid 19 has impacted my work at the LOVED centre in many ways. We had a national lockdown, involving a curfew, and schools and businesses being closed so many of our parents lost work and our children were not able to attend the day centre.

Despite the challenges, we adapted our approach, providing weekly food for our 64 families as well as daily home visits from a key worker to make sure the children who struggle with malnutrition and abuse were at minimal risk.

Over the 7 month lockdown we gave out 14,500kg of food, 4500 cups of milk and 3700 eggs. We supported 30 new children to overcome severe malnutrition which had developed as a result of the lockdown. 20 children had physiotherapy sessions and new equipment to use from home. 80 families were given a tap facility that works without touch, soap and training on hand washing. Loved was recognised by the senior nutritionist in our district as being the best nutrition partner in Mbale. Our new centre was built last year and we have got permission to re-open under the government guidelines. We currently have 60 children each day at the centre and 6 families still receiving home support.

I am overwhelmed by God's grace and provision for this community which I call

home. Thank you for your prayers and support which continue to have such a huge impact here.

Please pray for:

- a serious breakthrough in parents with addictions,
- protection over all the families and staff at Loved,
- continued peace in Uganda,
- weight gain for every child struggling with malnutrition.

Our Mission Partners in Mozambique

Please do continue to pray for Lisa and Orlando as they serve the community following the tornado and floods last week. If you would like to give to our Mission Partners please contact the Office.

Sunday 7th February

We will be joining together on line for our **Family Celebration** gathering at 11am. There will be no Youth and Children groups, instead we encourage families to come together and to take part in the service as a family. In the evening we will be joining together online with other local churches (at 6.30pm) for a **New Wine Celebration** evening. Simon Ponsonby will be the preacher, speaking on the theme of 'Treasure in the darkness.'

Ashburnham 2022 We're not taking bookings just yet, but information about prices and how to booking places will be shared very soon!

Children

At 9:30am today (online)

Scramblers: Pre-school (with parents)

At 9:50am today (online)

Climbers: Reception - Yr 2

At 11:00am today (online)

Explorers: Yrs 3 - 6

At 2:30pm today (online)

Adventurers: Children with additional needs

Giving at SMB

We believe that God calls us to tithe to our local place of worship as part of our discipleship and worship. We can only continue to fulfil God's calling on us as we, His church, continue to tithe and give as God calls us. The best way to give is by standing order and, if you're a taxpayer, to ensure that you gift-aid your donation. More information at smb.org.uk/finance

Youth

At 11:00am today (online)

Younger Youth: Yrs 7 - 10

Parents — please contact Mim for more information if you are new to SMB Online, or if you would like to know about provision for Older Youth (Years 11-13).

Get Connected

Our Fellowship Groups are central to our life and fellowship as a church and we hope that every member of SMB is a member of a Fellowship Group.

This is one of the best ways to get to know others as well as serving in teams and using our gifts. Please phone or email the office for a form which we can send by email or in the post.

Staff Contacts

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