



ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH // FAMILY NEWS

28th February 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 | Playing our part in the Body

(LiveStreamed on the SMB YouTube channel)

with Youth and Children's Work

Reading: 1 Cor 12: 12-31

Speaker: Stephen Carter

This week

Monday to Friday – Morning Prayers at 9:10am

Thursday - Make Lunch food parcels

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

Thursday - Student Night online (7.30pm)

Saturday - The TAP Quiz Night online (at 8pm)

Ministry Letter - from our Vicar, Barney

Dear SMB members,

As we approach the year anniversary of the first lockdown and our last 'normal' services, I look back to last year and remember thinking that the first thing we would do when we got back into the church would be to celebrate Easter. Well, it looks like this will be another Easter that we still can't fully gather to celebrate together. However, with Easter approaching with its message of hope and resurrection, I believe we can now look ahead with more certainty to a time when we can gather similar to how we did before. It might be a few months away, but I think it is now something we can start planning for. In the meantime, up to Easter, we will continue to gather online. On Good Friday we will be having an online 'Hour at the Cross' and then for our Easter morning service we will have the opportunity to gather for a service and communion which will also be streamed, just as we did on Christmas Day. Details of how you might sign up for that will follow soon. In the next few weeks we will also be deciding what to do after Easter with the possibility of gathered services which will also continue to be streamed.

One thing that is certain is that because of the length of time that this pandemic has taken we won't be able to just pick up things as we left them. This season has been too long just to be a pause and instead a bit of a reset needs to happen. God's work and ministry has of course continued through this time and I believe that much of what we were doing and had in place before lockdown will continue. But the reset gives us an opportunity to reassess what the Lord is calling us to, to review what he has been doing among us this last year and the years before that and to be really intentional in our direction of travel as we restart gathered life and ministry again. Thank you for your continued encouragement and prayers; please do continue to pray that we would all be walking in step with the Lord in the decisions that need to be made in the next few weeks and months.

God Bless, *Barney*

Events & Notices

News from Greg & Sylvia Venables, our Mission Partners in Argentina

Having spent March to December in total lockdown, we decided to move to Asuncion in Paraguay which, although still a high risk area, is not quite as bad as Buenos Aires. There is a reasonable compliance regarding protocols and every business has a washbasin with running water and soap outside and someone takes your temperature before you enter. I handed over the diocesan role in December and am now serving as Archbishop Emeritus.

Life is as busy as ever. I am especially involved in training up ordained and lay ministers and coordinating the spiritual side of St Andrew's College where I served as head from 1978-1989. Our younger daughter's husband, Donald, is chaplain there. Our other son in law, Ronald, oversees the cathedral here and is also rector of Cristo Salvador, a city parish. All three of our children live nearby with our eight grandchildren aged between two and twenty four. Sylvia is keeping well and busy, greatly enjoying being with the family. We are close to completing publication of a book I was asked to

write about Anglicanism since, in spite of a strong Anglican presence in the continent for two centuries, there is very little information in Spanish and the local languages. I have also been asked to prepare a commentary in Spanish on the book of Romans. Thank you for your ongoing support and fellowship. Please pray for protection and provision for us and the family; God's guidance and blessing for the church in South America in these difficult times; the formation of a new generation of leaders and ministers; the unity and expansion of the church.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request (for you or someone else) or you require any kind of confidential support during this time, please email Barney and Stephen at prayer@smb.org.uk

Ashburnham 2022

Spaces for Ashburnham are filling up fast. You'll find all the information you'll need at smb.org.uk/

Ashburnham We want everyone who would like to come to be able to — we have some financial support available, so please get in touch (confidentially) if you would like to speak to someone about this.

Children

At 9:30am (online)

Scramblers: Pre-school (with parents)

Climbers: Reception - Yr 2 (online)

At 11:00am (online)

Explorers: Yrs 3 - 6

At 2:30pm (online)

Adventurers: Children with additional needs

Youth

At 11:00am (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).

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

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

Vicar: Barney de Berry
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Associate Vicar: Stephen Carter
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