



ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH // FAMILY NEWS

7th March 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 | A dedication to service
(LiveStreamed on the SMB YouTube channel)

with Youth and Children's Work

Reading: Matthew 20: 20-28

Speaker: Brian Kelly

This week

Monday to Friday – Morning Prayers at 9:10am

Monday - Parenting For Faith (online) from 7.35pm for 7.45pm

Thursday - Make Lunch food parcels
(from 2:30pm packaging, from 3:30pm delivering)

Thursday - Student Night online (7.30pm)

Saturday - Men's Prayer Session online at 8am

Ministry Letter - from our Associate Vicar, Stephen

It probably hasn't escaped any of you that the government's 'roadmap' begins tomorrow! Those park bench coffees can return but perhaps more noticeably our children and teachers return to schools in person. This transition will be for some relief and joy, but for others it can bring fear and uncertainty. Let us not recede in being kind and prayerful for one another, and our nation at this time.

One of our local mission partners, Canterbury Christian Schools Work Trust (CCSWT) have a wonderful opportunity as schools return. They write, *'We at CCSWT are privileged to visit schools to share the hope of the gospel with both adults and children. We are supported by churches and individuals, so appreciate your prayer, giving and encouragement. During lockdown, our two workers have been honing their skills, producing online input for schools. Various assemblies for primary and secondary pupils have been uploaded onto our YouTube channel. These have been shown at schools and also sent home by schools, so the audience has often included parents and other siblings. Katy produced a complete prayer day for Christmas, which included everything needed for the teachers to run it. We know that six schools used it, as well as a home school group. Louise completed a GLOW course (boosting emotional literacy and self-esteem) for six girls - in school - before Christmas. Since then, she has set up telephone mentoring, but that will be in school, from next week.'*

Want to hear more? CCSWT have just released a video updating local churches. Watch out for Edie the puppet! <https://youtu.be/vzhqaLZIEhU> Until our next roadmap juncture we pray for those returning to school tomorrow. For the rest of us, enjoy those park bench coffees!

A prayer to pray with a child you know:

*Loving God, thank you for all my friends, and my teachers/carers.
Thank you that I have the chance to learn new things every day.
Please bless everyone at school/nursery, and please bless me too.
Help me to know that all day long, whether I'm having fun
or whether I'm feeling upset, you're there for me.*

Amen

Love, Stephen

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.

Alpha Online

Our next Alpha course will be starting online on 21st April 2021. For more details please go to www.smb.org.uk/alpha

Ashburnham 2022

All our allocated spaces for Ashburnham have now been filled. We are operating a waiting list in the hope that more accommodation will become available www.smb.org.uk/ashburnham

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
vicar@smb.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Stephen Carter
scarter@smb.org.uk

Curate: Charmaine Muir
cmuir@smb.org.uk

Growing Faith Pastor: Mim Taylor
mtaylor@smb.org.uk

Church Manager: Catherine Colley
ccolley@smb.org.uk

Administrator: Sarah Buchan
sbuchan@smb.org.uk

St Mary Bredin Church, 59 Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3JN

☎ 01227 453777 ✉ office@smb.org.uk 🌐 www.smb.org.uk

🐦 @SMBCanterbury

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