



ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH // FAMILY NEWS

21st 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 | Dying to self

(LiveStreamed on the SMB YouTube channel)

with Youth and Children's Work

Reading: Luke 9:21-26

Speaker: Peter Ould

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 - Men's Prayer Session online at 8am

Ministry Letter - from the Vicar

Dear SMB members,

With the anniversary of the first lockdown this week we suddenly approach another Easter which will be affected by the restrictions of lockdown. With this in mind I wanted to let you know what our plans are for Easter and for gathering again. We will be having an online Good Friday 'hour at the cross' and then, as we did on Christmas day, we will have the opportunity to gather on Easter Sunday morning. The numbers will of course be limited and social distancing rules will still be in place, but it seems right that those who can do gather to celebrate the central celebration of our faith, the cross and resurrection of Jesus. The service will be at 11am and will also be streamed on our YouTube channel. We will let you know soon when you can book for this.

Throughout this last lockdown churches have had permission to meet for services and though we haven't done this, with other restrictions lifting we will be looking, alongside the continuing online provision, to start gathering again. As in the Autumn this will be at two morning services (9:30am & 11am) during which children's and youth groups will also meet. We will start this on 25th April when our 8am service will also start up again. This gives us a little time after Easter to get everything ready. We won't for the time being, be having an evening gathering but I hope as restrictions lift, particularly on singing, that we will be able to start that up again soon as well.

We do have a couple of bits of staff news: Firstly after 10 years Janis Netherton will be retiring from her role as Bookings Administrator at the end of the month. Many of you will know Janis from her many years as a member of SMB and though she moved churches when she moved to Herne Bay a few years ago, she has continued to serve us faithfully as a church in this role. In the next few weeks we will be having the opportunity to thank her for her time on the staff team but do pray for her as this season comes to an end. Secondly, Catherine Colley has decided that now is a good time to step down from her role as Church Manager. Catherine has been a brilliant part of the team here at SMB and we owe her a huge amount especially for all she carried for us during the first lockdown. The Church Manager role is a key one and so we have moved quickly to make provision for it which I hope we will be able to confirm and announce in the next few weeks. Catherine will be finishing at the end of April which gives the opportunity for a good and comprehensive handover and gives us some time to say a big thank you and show our appreciation to her.

Thank you for your continuing encouragement and do keep praying as we begin to unlock from lockdown.

God Bless
Barney

Events & Notices

News from Margaret Griffin, about Juba Diocesan Mixed Secondary School, our Mission Partner South Sudan

Like most countries South Sudan has been hit by the Coronavirus. At literally a moment's notice the school was told to close and no further arrangements were made. I was contacted and advised of the practice being used; a parent comes to the school to collect 'homework' on a weekly basis, and as each set of work is received for marking another batch is ready to take home. This essential arrangement was vital to the Year 4 students about to take the School Certificate in March this year and has been very successful so far.

Please pray for:

- a) the Headmaster, Staff & students that the results will be as successful as in previous years,
- b) that the reputation of the school will continue as one of the very best secondary schools in the country,
- c) that 'normality' may return soon and the new intake will not be impaired by this 'close down'
- d) for the commitment of the Headmaster and Staff for providing this excellent provision at this vital time.

Youth Evangelist vacancy

We are now recruiting for our Youth Evangelist and the advert is on our website

www.smb.org.uk/vacancies

Please pray about who God is calling to this role, and if you know of anyone who may be suitable, please do share the link with them.

Alpha Online

Our next Alpha course will be starting online on 21st April 2021. It's so easy to invite people to Alpha online—and it doesn't matter where in the world they live! Do pray for this course and invite your friends or family to join in. There are more details, including an introductory video, on our website **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

smb.org.uk/Ashburnham

Morning Prayer

Monday-Thursday every week we meet for Morning Prayer at 9:10am, finishing by 9:30am. Email Stephen **scarter@smb.org.uk** for details

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

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