



ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH // FAMILY NEWS

18th April 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 | Resurrection Appearances:

Meeting Jesus in the Garden

(LiveStreamed on the SMB YouTube channel)

(with Youth and Children Groups via zoom today)

Reading: John 20: 1-18

Speaker: Charmaine Muir

This week

Monday to Friday – Morning Prayers at 9:10am

Thursday - Student Night at 7.30pm

Saturday - Men's Prayer Session online at 8am

Ministry Letter from STOP THE TRAFFIK Kent

The pandemic has been a time of great struggle for both victims and survivors of modern slavery. At a time when we have relied on technology to stay connected, survivors have become even more isolated as most don't have access to smart devices yet alone network. As support and counselling services have moved online, many survivors have fallen between the cracks and they have felt alone and unsupported. It is not a surprise therefore that anxiety and mental health issues have increased massively amongst survivors during lockdown.

In response, we've been busy supporting the survivors we journey with by getting donated iPads and smart phones to them and helping secure network access. Plus weekly phone calls of encouragement and showing them love in practical ways - one of our members has amazingly opened up their home during lockdown to host a survivor. Despite the huge challenges faced it has been so encouraging to see two young women move forward with their lives – one securing an amazing job and another applying to University. It shows that there is always hope after such a dark experience as human trafficking.

Victims have gone even further undercover during the pandemic with the number of rescues declining, meaning more people are trapped in slavery in the UK than ever before. Their traffickers, as the labour market has closed down, have moved them into agriculture, food processing plants and put them to work as delivery drivers to service the huge growth in internet shopping. Women and girls are still being trafficked in off-street brothels, these 'services' being in great demand even during lockdown. Over the last few months we have been part of brothel 'welfare visits' with Kent Police to help identify and rescue sex trafficked females. And in February we helped a male victim of labour exploitation get to a place of safety away from his traffickers.

Finally, our Christmas Angel initiative was a great success enabling us to provide 37 Christmas gifts for the survivors we support and women and their children at the Kent safe house. Thank you to all that donated – it made them feel very much loved.

If you would like to get involved in our anti-slavery ministry, or would like to find out more about hosting survivors in Christian homes, do please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

God bless

Cheryl & Manny Mvula

Events & Notices

News about our Mission Partner 'Time Out' in Canterbury

Our Easter party was on Zoom with an Easter quiz, bingo and bake-off.

Meanwhile, Easter goodies were delivered with a chat on the doorstep, and the offer of prayer.

Restrictions permitting we will re-open for outdoor service in early May. Please pray our grant applications will be successful. Also, if you've never been to our cafe please come. It's called Route 23 because the No 23 bus from the bus station will take you to Spring Lane on Sussex Avenue where we are. Better still you can walk or cycle! One of our treasured volunteers, Paul Whittles, retired recently so we are praying for a replacement. We could do with a friendly presence for any customers needing a chat. And, once we restart our Lunch Club some more volunteers to befriend folk and share the love of God would be wonderful. If you can't make a weekly commitment how about sharing a skill, talent, craft or life story at our post-lunch activity?

Laura Boobbyer (Volunteer) and Jan Newport (Chair of Trustees)

Youth Evangelist vacancy Please pray about who God is calling to this role, and if you know of anyone who may be suitable, please do share it with them. www.smb.org.uk/vacancies

In person gatherings from next week // 8am 9.30am and 11:00

From next Sunday we will be gathering in person again at 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00 with the Livestream at 11:00am.

Book online at smb.org.uk/sundays or phone/email the office.

Mini-school of discipleship on zoom Monday 26th April // 7:30pm

Charmaine will be leading a two part mini-school looking at the Lord's Prayer together and how that helps us go deeper in our prayer life. For more information contact the office or sign up on our website smb.org.uk/schoolofdiscipleship

Janis Netherton (Regan) has retired as our bookings administrator. She writes: I would like to thank smb staff and smb members for the cards and gifts for my retirement. It was very kind and thoughtful and I will miss you all professionally and personally!

Annual Meeting (APCM)

This will be held on 29th April at 8pm, but will only be on zoom this year.

If you would like to join us then you'll need to sign up at smb.org.uk/AGM or phone the office.

If you'd like to vote then you'll need to be on the Electoral Roll. The roll remains unchanged from last year but please contact the office if you're not sure if you're eligible.

Children

Online today at the usual times

From 25th April (back in the building):

At 9:30am

Scramblers: Pre-school (with parents)

Meet in Kendall Hall

Climbers: Reception - Yr 2

Meet in The Upper Room

At 11:00am

Explorers: Yrs 3 - 6

Meet in The Upper Room

Youth

From 25th April (back in the building):

At 11:00am

Younger Youth: Yrs 7 - 10

Meet in Kendall Hall

Parents — please contact Mim for more information if you are new to SMB, 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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