



**ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH // FAMILY NEWS**

**2nd May 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**

**8.00am | Holy Communion**

**9.30am & 11.00am | Faith Unlocked  
with Holy Communion**

(with the 11.00am LiveStreamed on the SMB YouTube channel)

(with Youth and Children Groups in person)

**Reading:** Matthew 17: 14-20

**Speaker:** Barney de Berry

### **This week**

**Tuesday to Friday** – Morning Prayers at 9:10am

**Thursday** - Student Night at 7.30pm

**Saturday** - Men's Prayer Session online at 8am

# Ministry Letter from Stephen, our Associate Vicar

Dear Church Family,

Our universities play such a rich part in our community and influence so much of our landscape, literally and figuratively! We deeply value having students in our church family and so many of you reading this having graduated here in Canterbury yourselves! The past year will have had particular challenges for us all but students have had it tough. For those living in a student house with friends from a previous year, they've typically managed well, perhaps even thrived in the depth of those friendships. But for others this has been a long lonely year. For the freshers many are making living arrangements for next year with people they scarcely know, some have stayed with their parents whilst learning remotely but left wondering why they were paying for accommodation. For some students years abroad have been deferred or cancelled, whilst for finalists they may not end their time here with the celebrations and closure that they'd otherwise experienced.

For students exploring faith and looking for a church community in some ways it's never been easier with online Alpha and streamed worship services to look in on church life from the outside. And yet it's also been hard. Such a feature of our church life and student ministry has been in the formation of a student worshipping community, following Jesus together, to become like Jesus, to do the things that Jesus did. But when we take away the twice weekly shared meals, the intimate sung worship, the church family lunches and epic socials, and instead provide a weekly zoom, then the invitation to come and worship, know and be known by others doesn't feel as rich as it otherwise would have.

Our student ministry is smaller in numbers than it's been during my time at SMB, but hope is in my heart. This term we are continuing with our Thursday Nights Online, but also offering a few Sunday Socials in line with the government roadmap. For our finalists tonight we have the second part of a four session support group, helping students prepare for leaving, discerning, moving and transitioning into life beyond university. If you know of students keen to find a local church then this is a great time to get involved. As we look to September we hope that we will be relaunching much of our student ministry. If you're someone in the church family passionate about supporting student ministry, either in a regular or irregular basis please chat with me and we can see where you might best bless students in our church life together.

Keep praying for our students, for those leaving and arriving this year, and get to know them when the opportunity arises. For more information please visit [smb.org.uk/students](http://smb.org.uk/students)

With love, *Stephen*

## Events & Notices

### News from Becca of UCCF

Becca Wild is the Staff Worker with Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) in Canterbury, helping the Christian Unions (CUs) reach students for Jesus.

Throughout the past year CUs have adapted and found new ways to share the gospel. Kent CU included a social event once a month to help with loneliness and Christ Church CU started small groups to help students make deeper friendships.

Please pray that, as restrictions are lifted, this new start would be positive for the CUs and that they would see more people coming to know Jesus. Becca is preparing to leave her role in UCCF in August, and Elliot Curryer will be taking over. Becca is thrilled to be handing over to someone who is so passionate about student work in this city. Elliot says "I'm delighted to be taking on the role of UCCF Staff Worker in Canterbury and excited to continue the great work that Becca has done in serving the CUs. CU was a formative part of my faith journey and I did Relay in Canterbury too. I can't wait to get started!". Please pray for Becca and Elliot in this change. If you would like to support Elliot or receive his prayer letters, do get in touch with Becca ([bwild@uccf.org.uk](mailto:bwild@uccf.org.uk)).

**Could you be involved?** Canterbury Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors are currently looking for more people to get involved now that the night time economy is beginning to be up and running again on our streets. The commitment is generally once a month on a rota basis, and training is available right now. More information can be found at on their website [www.streetpastors.org](http://www.streetpastors.org) or by using this link [Home - Canterbury Street Pastors](#) Let's join in bringing the light of Jesus into dark places around our city!

**Community Wardrobe** Churches in Canterbury are embarking on a new community project offering second hand school uniform to families across the city. During May, All Saints Church will be accepting school uniform donations and will need volunteers to sort, clean and package them ready for a community open day in July and August. Please do get in touch with them on 01227 450669.

**Parking at SMB on Sundays** We have very limited parking onsite at SMB so please try to leave the spaces for those who really do need to use them. The nearest council parking is Holman's Meadow Car Park and there is some free street parking available on Nunnery Fields and the surrounding streets. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

## Children

We're 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

We're 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](http://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](mailto:vicar@smb.org.uk)

**Associate Vicar:** Stephen Carter  
[scarter@smb.org.uk](mailto:scarter@smb.org.uk)

**Curate:** Charmaine Muir  
[cmuir@smb.org.uk](mailto:cmuir@smb.org.uk)

**Growing Faith Pastor:** Mim Taylor  
[mtaylor@smb.org.uk](mailto:mtaylor@smb.org.uk)

**Church Manager:** Katie Mickleburgh  
[kmickleburgh@smb.org.uk](mailto:kmickleburgh@smb.org.uk)

**Church Administrator:** Sarah Buchan  
[sbuchan@smb.org.uk](mailto:sbuchan@smb.org.uk)

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

☎ 01227 453777 ✉ [office@smb.org.uk](mailto:office@smb.org.uk) 🌐 [www.smb.org.uk](http://www.smb.org.uk)

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