

Bath Street Pastors: Every Friday and Saturday night, teams drawn from churches across Bath and beyond, patrol our city centre, meeting people where they are and responding to their needs. Street Pastors are not there to evangelise, but to practice their faith by providing support to the vulnerable. Giving a blanket to a rough sleeper... a casual conversation, or a lengthy chat... helping young people after a night out; just some of the ways Street Pastors make a difference. Have you ever considered joining Street Pastors, serving once a month as part of a team? There's a good balance of men and women of all ages - from 20s to 80s. It can be an insightful and hugely rewarding experience.

Derek Smith or Rob Carver from our congregation will be happy to tell you more or to take you out as an observer. Alternatively contact Dennis Pearson or Angela Jameson at bstreetpastors@gmail.com. Training is provided and commences 25th April. You would be most welcome.

For your prayers

'...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God,' Philippians 4. 6

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer Focus – From the Sabeel Wave of Prayer: Homes are demolished leaving families homeless, Gaza is at breaking point, olive groves are uprooted by settlers, farmers are prevented from tending their land and Covid -19 is impacting Palestine and Israel too.

Dear Lord, we are all guilty of judging others. This keeps us from connecting with others in loving, healthy ways. We see threat from many angles, from others within our community, from those of different religions and from internationals. Help remove this tendency from our hearts. Help us to see our brothers and sisters the way you see them and to see the person rather than being led by fear. Amen.

Pray for Contact Group Leader: Iris Shanahan
Pray for all members of the Parochial Church Council

Ministers: Every Member

Rector: The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater

Abbey Missioner: The Revd Stephen Girling

Associate Priest: The Revd Evelyn Lee-Barber

Associate Minister: The Revd Ken Madden

Youth & Families Minister: Tim Norton

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Derek Smith – DSmith@bathabbey.org
(Tel: 07943 179194)

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ABBEY OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday 10.00am – 3.30pm, Tuesday – Friday 9.00am – 3.30pm

Abbey Community News

Week beginning Sunday 22nd March 2020

Mothering Sunday

Through Lent, we continue to prayerfully consider the use of our 'time, talents and treasure' in the context of our 2020 Vision. We thank God for his motherly love, for our mothers and for the Mother Church which nurtures us in faith

All of us continue to watch the reports of the spreading coronavirus outbreak. The unprecedented peacetime measures announced by the Government, together with suspension of all public church services, inevitably come with a sense of trepidation over the unknowns and the risks to the health of everyone in our communities. Especially now, I encourage us all to remember the powerful words of Psalm 121: "From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." This season of self-isolation and social distancing is a time for heightened prayer, and prayerful action too as we look to Almighty God to lead, protect and guide us.

In the words of our Archbishops, we are now being challenged to be a radically different kind of church: "Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday" they have written "and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day". **On this Mothering Sunday** we especially remember the most vulnerable, those who are sick or anxious, all who wonderfully serve our essential health and social care, and those in leadership making difficult decisions about the containment of Covid-19. As part of a national day of prayer today, **at 7pm we are invited to light a candle in the windows of our homes**, as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

We are keeping the Abbey open daily, with a special emphasis on prayer, just as it has served the people of our city through numerous times of national health crisis through the centuries. This week we are hosting the prayer stations for Experience Easter, these will develop in the future into stations for personal prayer and meditation. The Abbey floor is now cleared of chairs to support good hygiene and social distancing.

We are also hoping to provide a **short daily video message and prayer on our website** ("thought for the day" style), led by Abbey ministers. If possible, this will be accompanied by an anthem from our own choir, and indeed by the video recording of an act of worship on Sundays. We will also be signposting to other links and resources for personal prayer, such as those recommended on the Church of England website.

In terms of offering vital practical care, our Archbishops add "This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves?" Of course, there is a wonderful opportunity to be the church for all in the way we offer care to the community, and to each other. The Abbey's contact groups will be the principle means by which we try to ensure everyone at the Abbey is being looked after.

May the Lord's blessing be our shelter and strength, and for all those we love and care for, our friends, our neighbours and our colleagues.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
Guy (Abbey Rector)

BathAbbey



Coronavirus Update: From Tuesday 17th March 2020, please note that Bath Abbey remains open, with a special emphasis on prayer in these difficult times (from 10am to 6pm and 10am to 4pm on Sundays). However due to the pandemic, we are sorry to announce that we will be holding NO PUBLIC SERVICES AND EVENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Please see Abbey website for more details and an online service and a 'Thought for the Day.

NOTICES

The new Bath Abbey Music 2020 leaflet giving details of Organ Recitals and our Abbey Choirs' concerts for 2020 is now available to download from our website from the Worship & Music page: <https://www.bathabbey.org/worship-and-music/>. A hard copy can be collected at the back of the Abbey, the Welcome desk or the Abbey Office. We hope you will find time to come to one of our wonderful concerts or recitals this year.

Unfortunately, the Stainer concert on April 4th and Messiah on April 26th have had to be cancelled. We have also cancelled the Footprint Concerts on 1st and 15th May and the organ recitals for May. At the moment events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please keep checking the pew sheet and the Abbey's website for further information.

The Abbey choirs will be recording a few items for 'virtual daily prayer' so do look out for these choral and solo items in the coming days and weeks on our website and on social media.

Reaching the Unreached - Having only recently made the arrangements for it, it is a great pity now that we have to tell you that Father Antony, Director of RTU, will not now be visiting the UK in May. We hope that his visit has been postponed rather than cancelled and that in due course we can welcome him once again to the Abbey. *James Playfair*

Thank you from Ursula Turrell: Many, many thanks to everyone who has contacted me, in so many different ways to convey their best wishes, offer help and to pray for my speedy recovery following hip surgery. It was so very kind and thoughtful of you all, and much appreciated. Our daughters and their husbands have been wonderful, looking after both Brian and myself. Blessing and my grateful thanks to you. *Ursula Turrell*

Double Your Footprint Donation: As we move into the final phase of the Abbey's Footprint Project, we would gratefully welcome any financial support you feel able to give us, as we continue fundraising to bring the inspirational Footprint vision to life. The Brownsword Matchfund will double your Footprint donation, ensuring your gift has twice the impact on this innovative project. To discuss supporting Footprint, please contact our Development Manager, Cath Foxwell, at cfoxwell@bathabbey.org or 01225 422462. Thank you.

The Abbey Contact Groups are kindly offering support to people affected by Coronavirus. If you have not got the support you need from your Contact Group, friends, family or neighbours, please do contact the Church office. The Church family is here for you.

Please collect a 2020 Vision Pack from the back of Church or from the Vestry, to find out about the new Mission Action Plan for Bath Abbey. If you are a member of the Abbey Electoral Roll, please collect an envelope and tick your name off the list so that we know you have received it (and if you can possibly hand deliver anyone else's to them, please help us save postage!) The Rector's address launching our 2020 Vision, given at the Come and See event, is available on the Abbey website. Please pray about your own response to the Abbey Vision and return the two response forms to the Abbey Office by Easter Day. Thank you.

Bath Half Marathon: Thank you for your support for the team. Stephen and Guy ran the race, Louise ran another route away from the crowds and Steve ran another route later in the week. So, the task was completed! Your prayers, words of encouragement and sponsorship were greatly appreciated – please hand sponsor money into the Abbey office in a marked envelope.

One Good Friday – 16th March 2020: This event has been **postponed** due to Coronavirus. It is now planned to go ahead on Good Friday next year (2nd April 2021).

Please note 'Way of the Cross' Friday, 10th April 2020 has been cancelled.

Genesis Trust, one of the Abbey's five partner charities, is adapting its help to the disadvantaged and the vulnerable in Bath as things develop. With all the disruptions, the focus is on meeting the needs of the homeless and those needing to use the Foodbank. For the homeless there is a particular need for toiletries and clothing which can be dropped off at the Lifeline Centre on London Road, BA1 6DH between 10am-3pm on weekdays. For the Foodbank, the need is financial so that food can be purchased where necessary. If you would like to give please see <https://bath.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>. In addition, many of the regular volunteers are in the "high risk group" and so have had to withdraw. **If you are not in the high risk group and would like to be an "emergency volunteer" please contact caleb@genesistrust.org.uk.** As we all try to keep ourselves safe, let's not forget the most vulnerable in our community."

"When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them." Psalm 91v15