



**A Warm Welcome to
ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH**

with the Seckford Chapel, Woodbridge

13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Wherever we are, we are the body of Christ.

THIS TIME LAST WEEK

Andy Todd was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Dunwich, Dr Mike Harrison and below is the proof! Our congratulations and prayers for his new ministry among us.



Revd Andy Todd - What is a 'Virtual Retreat'?

Several people have asked that question since seeing mention of the term in a recent St. Mary's news-sheet. Let me try to explain.

It has long been traditional to take the candidates for ordination as deacon or priest away to a retreat centre where they are kept for three nights until returning to the cathedral for the services. The retreat provides a focused quiet time for contemplating, praying and listening to God. It also allows everyone to rehearse the service and to take their legal oaths and declarations.

We had to adapt to the Covid restrictions on large gatherings, since there would have been over forty people attending our retreat. The solution was to run it as a virtual retreat using technology. We stayed at home, and participated in the daily offices via Zoom.

It's not a perfect medium for collective worship, so our approach was to have all attendees join in as appropriate but with their microphones muted. One of the group was

then unmuted and designated as the “voice of the people” for the responsorial sections of the service, whilst others were nominated for the readings and to say the Lord’s prayer.

A keynote speaker is another traditional aspect of a retreat. Ours was Andrew McGowan, Dean and President of Berkeley Divinity School, Yale University. It would have been a wonderful experience to have him as retreat leader ‘in the flesh’, yet he was equally imposing on just digital acquaintance.

Professor McGowan was recently on sabbatical in Oxford, working on his new book about how early Christian and other ancient Mediterranean groups used, changed, and created notions of sacrifice. His address to us was a series of four short reflections with the title “Making Sacrifices”. Using the story of Abraham as a starting text, these talks were highly stimulating, erudite and thought-provoking.

We were asked to avoid unnecessary activity and to find quiet places in or around home to walk and pray, to consider the reflections on “Making Sacrifices” and to ponder the significance of our ordinations to come. The retreat ended with an address by Bishop Martin Seeley in which he made his charge to the about-to-be-ordained, taking as his text the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42.

I found the two days to be intense and spiritually fulfilling. No, it was not the retreat we had been expecting and we may have missed some of the building of social relationships with our fellow deacons, but that will surely follow in the months ahead. Yes, it was valid and valuable and shows how creatively we can all make the most of technology and time to give us space to sit at the feet of the Lord and listen to his voice.



COLLECT AND READINGS

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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.

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²²Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have

patience with me, and I will pay you.”³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?”³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

- ❖ For the Christian Church throughout the world, for Justin and Stephen, our Archbishops, for our Bishops Martin and Mike, for Father Nigel, for Andy, for Siw, John and Peter and all who serve.
- ❖ For all other clergy and laity of Woodbridge Deanery, together with those from Waveney and Blyth Deaneries.
- ❖ For stability in Lebanon and those severely affected by the explosion in Beirut, for all agencies working to support those struggling to repair their homes and feed their families, for the establishment of a democratic government there
- ❖ For the Church's Ministry among Jewish People
- ❖ For all coming to terms with new measures to limit the spread of Covid-19
- ❖ For our Judicial System and the Police in Suffolk
- ❖ For young victims of violence, young perpetrators, their families and all affected by local incidents
- ❖ For all facing health challenges and for the family members who support them
- ❖ Amongst those we are asked to pray for;
Clare Appleby, Derek Cole, Phylis Davis, Kathy Day, Leah Haywood Smith, Pat O'Hagan, Febe Pipe, Gwyneth Rhys- Jones, Joy Shipton, Amanda Slade, Iris Stock, James Tucker, Jennifer Workman and any others known to us alone.

Among the recently departed, Clare Gonzalez and Patricia Yelland

- ❖ For Rosemary Cooper, whose funeral was last Thursday

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 20th September; Phillipians 1. 21-30; Matthew 20. 1-16

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 14th September	8am Morning Prayer in the Epiphany Chapel – all welcome
Tuesday 15th September,	8am Morning Prayer in the Epiphany Chapel – all welcome
	9.30 Deanery Clergy Chapter at St Mary's
	19.30 PCC Meeting – Hall. St Mary's Church Centre
Wednesday 16th September	15.00 Funeral of Patricia Yelland at Seven Hills Crematorium
Thursday 17th September	10 am Said Eucharist in St Mary's Woodbridge – all welcome

Friday 18th September **8am** Morning Prayer in the Epiphany Chapel – all welcome
Saturday 19th September **10am** Heritage Open Day Ecclesiastical Walk. Currently
planned to start from Woodbridge Train Station.

COMING SOON

Sunday 27th September **11am** All Age Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's
Great Bealings followed by a 'Bring Your Own Picnic'.
Both will be held outdoors in Churchyard

Tuesday 20th October **7.30pm** Our annual Vestry meeting, followed by our Annual
Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will in St Mary's
Woodbridge. Exact venue to be confirmed.

Thoughts from Anne Wright – 'Creation'

Many of us will have spent more time in the garden in the last few months whilst other activities have been unavailable. Looking around at the plants, shrubs and perhaps animals is a time of wonder at what is before us.

We have a pond in our garden which recently required some sorting out as some plants had grown too big. I carefully placed my kneeling mat near the edge in order to begin and suddenly there were what looked like a lot of little flies on the plants at the edge. They were in fact tiny frogs about one centimetre in length; perfectly formed with long legs clearly visible folded alongside the body. They leapt off into the undergrowth but not before I had noticed the tiny hands grabbing onto a stem. I was amazed at this spectacle as I had never seen such tiny frogs before. We have had frogspawn for years but never seen it develop into the adult animal. It did make me wonder at all God's creation – how could something so tiny be so perfectly formed. I also thought how little we appreciate what is around us all the time.

On our daily walks by the river we have had two sightings of smooth snakes which we have not had before down there; one was almost silver and the other mainly black. They don't hang around for long so it was a fleeting glimpse. The woodland part of the path is currently an abundance of berries on the brambles and now hawthorn berries too, bright and red. The whole path is lined with green leaves of various shapes and sizes. An amazing sight. At the beginning of lockdown, being in the spring, there was a tree on Kingston Field with wonderful white blossom, all gone now but on the other side of the field is a sycamore tree surrounded by bright green 'keys' which have been blown down to the ground. All around us there is so much to see and enjoy in God's wonderful creation.



All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

NOTICES

STOP PRESS FROM BISHOP MARTIN

“It has been confirmed that the new rules on informal social gatherings do NOT apply to acts of Worship, provided we continue to follow the established guidance and risk assessments. It is also our understanding that the announcement of the ‘Rule of VI’ does NOT prevent meetings of more than 6 people in venues (including churches, church and village halls) following Covid19 secure guidelines.” Hurrah!!

We are very grateful to those who book each week in time for our Friday 3pm deadline. This really helps our seating arrangements, to maximise safe numbers in the Church.

ORDINATION OF ANDY TODD AS DEACON

The ordination service which took place at the cathedral on Saturday 5th September can be viewed at www.facebook.com/stedscathedral/posts This is a public site; you do not need to have a Facebook account neither to register nor to log in, simply scroll down to the 6th September service.



LAST WEEKS PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Patronal Service on 6th September can be viewed by clicking on the link below.

Thank you. Rita James

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIAbckY2MAo>

SHCT RIDE & STRIDE 2020: A big thank you to everyone who rode, strode or sponsored the participants from both St Mary's in yesterday's annual event. I will let you know in a few weeks how many visitors came to our Churches and later in October how much we raised in sponsorship. Thank you everyone. Greg Spray

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Tessa (Thacker) and Michael Gooding who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary last Thursday 10th September at our 10am Eucharist. Their son, Christopher, kindly sent us a photo of the Choir on that very day, 60 years ago so we thought some of you might like to see who you can spot!



LIVE- STREAMING

There will be no live stream of the Parish Eucharist this Sunday but we're planning to live stream again next week, 20 September - **but importantly we'd love to know how you feel** about how often we live stream and how we're doing it!

Your feedback on the way we've been doing things is **really important** and the pros and the cons would be much appreciated. Please use the feedback form at the bottom of the Contacts & Links page on our website www.stmaryswoodbridge.org or email me on webmaster@stmaryswoodbridge.org Many thanks, Rita

NEWS FROM THE SHOP

There are lots of new products and cards in the shop for you to browse. Many of the arrivals are Fairtrade including ground coffee, coffee beans, Earl Grey teabags, pasta and chocolate. Our cards are particularly interesting at the moment - Michael Coulter original watercolours of Woodbridge and the East Anglian coast suitable for all occasions.

At the moment, we are open every morning except Wednesday 10 - 1 and remember we are open every Sunday after church. Have you considered being a volunteer in the shop? It is a lot of fun helping and meeting customers. You can help out as often as suits your other commitments over the month.

We'd love to hear from you. Please give me a ring or catch me after Sunday service in the shop.
Sue Todd 01394 460329 sjbtodd@aol.com

ARE YOU ON OUR ELECTORAL ROLL?

If you are pleased to be counted as someone who belongs to St Mary's, just return the simple form to our Parish Office. It means you will be eligible to vote at our annual Meetings as well as stand for a variety of voluntary posts. Please feel encouraged by our new Rector who wants our 'membership' to grow! Please ask any of our Sidespeople for a form to take today. Thank you.

THE BELLS!

We are pleased to report that Taylors have completed all the works, kindly paid for by Friends, including the new timber clapper. It is hoped that we will hear them resonate again very soon.

THE MERRY ORGAN!

Improvement works have now been completed by Bishops – well ahead of schedule. So all our organists can resume playing as before.



Our thanks to Bob for arranging small groups of singers at our Sunday Parish Mass. It's great to hear some 'live' voices once again and thank you to all who are helping out. Father Nigel can't stop humming Bob Chilcott's 'Be Thou My Vision' from last week's ordination... is that a hint for more good things to come?

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

We are hoping to resume regular displays from next Sunday with a new rota for our kind volunteers. Please have a word with Sue Smith-Lyte especially if you would like to volunteer for the first time. You will be made very welcome.

OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

Very many thanks to all who have contributed to *Outlook* in the past. Immense gratitude is owed to both Nick Cottam and Mary Hodge for masterminding so many entertaining and informative issues. After ten or so years they have decided that it is time to stop this publication and for the Communications Working Party to explore new ways of engaging with and reaching out to everyone in the Parish.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life. The line is available 24 hours a day and has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.



Private Prayer in our church continues during September, as follows:

MONDAYS	10 am-12		5-7pm
TUESDAYS	10 am-12		
WEDNESDAYS		2-4pm	
THURSDAYS	10 am-12		
FRIDAYS	10 am-12		5-7pm
SATURDAYS		2-4pm	

We are grateful to those who maintain a discreet presence during opening times.

Barbara & Veronica

CHURCH FINANCES

We are extremely thankful for, but should be very grateful for any (extra?) support you are able to offer the church for its ministry and considerable costs, particularly in these extraordinary times. The **Parish Giving Scheme** continues to be our preferred form of donation but if you wish to find other ways of doing so, please contact the Parish Office or Churchwardens for additional details. We hope that parishioners who currently use the standing order/faster payments system or make regular envelope donations will give thought to making a transfer to the Parish Giving Scheme.

If you want to join the scheme and do not have internet access please contact the Parish Office to obtain either an application form or details of the telephone sign up procedure. If you have internet access then full details are on our website under the “Contacts and Links” tab, and then under “Giving to St Marys”. In addition to details of the telephone scheme there is now a downloadable gift form to print, complete and post to the PGS. For further information please email givingsteward@stmaryswoodbridge.org or speak to a Churchwarden.

GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

Many thanks to everyone who has already completed and returned a form and we look forward to receiving any outstanding ones.

More detailed notes and a blank gift aid form are available on our website under the “Contacts and Links” tab in the section headed “Giving to St Marys”. If you fall into one of the above categories, or make one off donations on an ad hoc basis please look at the website. If you require a printed copy to complete please contact a Churchwarden or email parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org

ONLINE SHOPPING BENEFITTING ST MARY’S

If shopping with Amazon, please go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1129672-0> to register, and then don’t forget to use “<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>” when you shop on Amazon thereafter to raise income for our church. You will find St Mary’s listed under its full registered charity name of “*The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary, Woodbridge, Suffolk*”.

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Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10-1. Sunday 11-12