

Dear friends,

I sincerely hope everyone is well, and able to take some advantage of the creeping freedoms that are slowly coming upon us.

For me and my family, sport is back on the evening and weekend schedule, and it's great to be able to share the outdoors with friend's other families again while watching the kids take part.

In sport, we recognise the reliance on a collective objective, support, and protecting and picking each other up.

Easter tide is a time when we recall Jesus' emphasis on the friendship he had with the disciples. As Jesus neared his death and then beyond his resurrection, he drew them closer as a group and sought to bind them together as equals.

When we acknowledge God as our Father in Heaven, we all stand together as brothers and sisters with Jesus alongside us. We are all equally children of God the Father.

Covid has certainly been a great leveller, and we have all found ourselves needing support.

Now that we are beginning to come together again this summer, our congregation remains an important component of support in our community. Let's keep worshipping and praying, keep comforting and continuing to help.

Whether at school or work, volunteering, or amongst friends and family, let's continue to play a part in binding our community back together into something transformed into what God envisaged.

God bless and stay safe,

Vaughan

Vaughan Reeves

- **LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Christian Aid Week



Christian Aid Week runs this year between the 10th and 16th May. Like many charities their income levels have been hit hard during this pandemic year.

The funds donated this year will be used to fight the climate crisis which is hurting us all, but people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means [people like Rose](#) are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every gift and every challenge completed can change lives. To find out more, please visit www.christianaid.org.uk

Online coffee mornings

Our coffee mornings are now taking place every Sunday after the 11.30 a.m. online service. Everyone invited to attend, including our 10.15 a.m. service attendees.

They'll start at around 12.15 p.m. and last for no longer than 30 minutes. This means they should be finished by 12.45 p.m. at the latest, but if you need to leave earlier that is fine as well.

- **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH RECENT AND UPCOMING SERVICES/EVENTS**

Sunday services inside our church building

Our service this weekend is being held on the sixth Sunday of Easter. It will be taking place at 10.15 a.m. on Sunday 9th May. Rev Huw Thomas is leading it, and Rev Fiona Jenkinson will read the gospel and preach.

Full details on how you can attend our socially distanced services, including a downloadable service sheet, can be found here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/socially-distanced-services

Online Sunday morning services, including our coffee mornings

Our online service this weekend will be taking place at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday 9th May. Rev Huw Thomas is leading it, and Rev Fiona Jenkinson will read the gospel and preach. You'll be able to sing three beautiful hymns: 'Come down, O Love divine', 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord', and 'How great thou art'.

You'll be able to participate in this service via Zoom using your electronic device, mobile phone or landline. This service will also be available to watch via a simultaneous broadcast using Facebook Live, and later on in the day via our YouTube channel. The service is accessible by a PowerPoint presentation which is shared on the screen.

If you'd like to receive the details to log on via Zoom please subscribe to our full newsletter here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/emailnewslettersandaskingforhelp

Family Praise

This month's Family Praise service took place last Sunday afternoon via Facebook Live. If you missed it you can watch it by clicking on one of the following links:

www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton/videos/510850243406517

<https://youtu.be/JuBdza-GALs>

The service booklet can be downloaded from www.stmichaelsflixton.org/service-booklet

Friday night prayer with Rev Fiona

Rev Fiona's night prayer services are taking place on a weekly basis at 9 p.m. each Friday. You can watch live, and comment if you wish, by visiting our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton. You can watch previous week's recordings on our [YouTube channel](#).

Our Online Church

We have already been sharing our services and prayers on our web and social media sites. If you don't know how to find these, please use the links below:

- www.stmichaelsflixton.org
- [St Michael's You Tube Channel](#)

- www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton
- <https://twitter.com/StMichaelsFlix>
- www.instagram.com/stmichaelschurchflixton

- **LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CHARITIES**

Sticky Wicket Supplies

[Sticky Wicket Supplies is Flixton's food bank](#). Based at Flixton Cricket Club, they are providing food and essential supplies, such as toiletries, to the people of M41. Anyone is welcome to visit if they are in genuine need. All donations are welcomed. Full details of their latest requirements, and opening times, are available on their Facebook page, as shown below. You can also drop off supplies at St Michael's Vicarage, as Rev Huw is volunteering there each Wednesday.

- **GIVING AND FUNDRAISING**

Please continue to support St Michael's Church

Thank you all so much, as over the last year you have:

- Donated over £2,000 via your online donations
- Raised over £150 from your online shopping (via easyfundraising and AmazonSmile)

Whilst self-isolating or socially distancing, you can still support our beautiful Grade II* listed building and churchyard in a variety of ways, as follows:

1. **Online donations** can be made at www.stmichaelsflixton.org/support-us
2. Please remember to use **easyfundraising every time you shop online!** Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. They even have fair trade retailers who work with easyfundraising as well. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and free! You can get started at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmichaelsflix/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=en-n2
If you want to find out how easyfundraising works, please visit our website page at www.stmichaelsflixton.org/easy-fundraising
3. **If you have an Amazon account**, please make your purchases using AmazonSmile instead. It is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to St Michael's Church. A full explanation on how you can 'convert' your existing Amazon account into an AmazonSmile one that supports St Michael's can be found here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/shop
If you do need to set up an AmazonSmile account please click here to get started <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134769-0>
4. You **raise money for us by searching on the web**. If you use easysearch as your search engine you can raise £20 a year for St Michael's by completing 10 searches a day. To get started visit <http://stmichaelsflix.easysearch.org.uk/> and save it as one of your internet browser's bookmarks.

- **CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND PANDEMIC SUPPORT**

Latest coronavirus information and how this affects services being held inside St Michael's Church building

Rev Huw has requested that you all regularly 'keep an eye on' the latest advice being issued by The Diocese of Manchester and The Church of England on the current coronavirus situation. You can do this in the following ways:

- [Diocese website](#)
- [Diocese Facebook page](#)
- [Diocese Twitter page](#)
- [Church of England website](#)
- [Church of England Facebook page](#)
- [Church of England Twitter page](#)

Not using social media?

If you aren't a confident user of a computer, laptop, tablet or phone when accessing information on the internet, and you don't use social media, then please [start by visiting the Church's website](#). Special sections have been created to help our congregation and the wider Flixton community, and [they can be found in the section called Online Church](#).

In the Online Church section, you can access a [copy of the service booklets](#) we are using during our online services, find links to [online information to help you to stay physically and mentally healthy during this period](#), and a page to [subscribe to receive this newsletter by entering your email address](#). You can in the News section watch [our recorded services and prayers via YouTube](#) option, and also see our social media posts (without having your own accounts) in the [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) page links.

Using and setting up Zoom

Zoom can be found by visiting their website <https://zoom.us> and clicking on the 'sign up it's free' button'. Once you have completed this process, please follow the steps on the image shown on the next page. Alternatively, online help and guidance is available via [Zoom](#) or [Gadgets Now](#). Zoom can be used via your computer, tablet, or mobile phone, and mobile/landline phones (for audio only), and there is a downloadable app to use as well.

