

Hello everyone

I hope this week's newsletter finds you well.

After a break from my usual activities, including church (not by choice, I had to isolate for 10 days), I am really enjoying being among people again and getting back into routine. Sometimes it takes an enforced break to make you realise what you enjoy most and what you will miss the most. I have missed contact with other people very much as well as my dog walks. We've all experienced this type of thing during the last year during lockdowns and many of us are re-discovering the pleasure of doing things we once took for granted: calling on a friend for a cup of tea, going to the pub, going out for a meal, going on holiday. It still feels strange to sit among others so closely after all this time and it might take a while to feel 'normal' again.

I was delighted to be back in church last week and find that we are now able to sing hymns again. It felt strange but lovely at the same time and felt like another step towards normality. As a church we are taking things slowly and cautiously. Many people may think this strange when you can sit in a pub or go to a nightclub without restrictions, but we want to be sure we are keeping the risk to anyone who comes to church as low as possible.

It is certainly feeling very autumnal now. The children are back at school and university, the nights are drawing in and Strictly is back on TV! While it can be sad to say goodbye to summer, autumn has lots to offer too: the changes in the trees and beautiful sunsets to name but two. I hope we can also look forward some lovely services in church at Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, All Souls and Christmas too.

We have welcomed children back to Sunday School over the last 3 weeks which has been great. I have missed seeing the children and hearing their, sometimes alternative, views about what Jesus was saying in our bible stories. We hope we can build our numbers back up and we welcome any children over 3 years.

I hope to see many of you again soon and pray you all keep well.

Debbie Gould

Churchwarden

- **LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Church Planning Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

A good day and enjoyable day was shared with those who could make it to the Church Planning Day. Lots of great ideas were shared and discussed, thanks to those who contributed. If you'd like to read a copy of the notes from the meeting please send an email requesting a copy.

### **Mission Community planning meetings**

Revd Nick Watson, Area Dean, is inviting you to attend a Zoom meeting on Monday 11 October at 7.30pm, to outline the plans he's preparing for our move into Mission Communities. The current plans for our Mission Community Partnerships are attached to the email version of the newsletter, and Nick would appreciate your comments on this plan, which can be altered if necessary before it goes to Bishop's Leadership Team on 22 October.

St Michael's is included within 'Mission Community 1' on the plans, and the relevant Zoom meeting details are listed below:

*Mission Community 1 meeting link (7.30pm, Monday 11 October)*

<https://zoom.us/j/94234917930?pwd=bWI2MERUaU5VSIFicjBodk5LNmNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 942 3491 7930

Passcode: 546822

*General meeting (for those who can't attend on 11 October, all Mission Communities) – 10am, Saturday 16 October*

<https://zoom.us/j/92524141756?pwd=RGt5Q0tKT0I5RFVbV1ISV2NjTWtkdz09>

Meeting ID: 925 2414 1756

Passcode: 281900

### **Pub Church**

October's Pub Church will be taking place at The Church Inn on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 8 p.m. It will then continue to take place on the first Wednesday of each month as normal from November onwards.

### **Christmas Fair**

We'll be holding a Christmas Fair again this year inside Church Croft on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. Further details to follow in due course, watch this space...

### **Church Croft**

Church Croft is open for bookings again from the beginning of October onwards. Please contact Sally on 07779 491 029 if you are interested.

[www.stmichaelsflixton.org/church-croft](http://www.stmichaelsflixton.org/church-croft)

### **Family Friendly services**

Our Family Friendly services are restarting again from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October (term time only). They'll start at 3.40 p.m. to allow as many people to attend following the end of the school day. The church doors will be open from 3.25 p.m. onwards.

### **Thursday morning Holy Communion service**

Our Thursday morning Holy Communion services are back from the beginning of October, in partnership with our friends at St John's, Flixton. The first and third Thursdays will be at St John's starting at 10.30 a.m., and the second and fourth Thursdays will be at St Michael's starting at 10.15 a.m. If there is a fifth Thursday in the month the services will take place at both churches.

### **Harvest Festival service**

Our Harvest Festival service will be taking place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 10.15 a.m. Please bring along tinned and other non-perishable items to the service, and afterwards they'll be donated to Stretford Foodbank.

### **Family Praise services**

Our monthly Family Praise services are back inside our church building. The first will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October starting at 4 p.m., and then on the first Sunday of the months at the same time on an ongoing basis.

## **Flixton Community Choir**

The choir has started rehearsing inside our church building on Tuesday evening between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. Past members and anyone new who would like to join them will be welcomed. The members are singing in the pews, not the choir stalls, in a chess board formation (e.g. singing only on the black squares) to encourage distancing between household groups. They are also having short breaks to allow droplets to fall from the air.

## **Aid for Afghan Refugees**

As you may be aware refugees from Afghanistan have managed to escape the atrocities that are happening in their own country and found sanctuary in Manchester. Many of these people arrived in the inclement conditions of this country with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They are desperate and have nothing.

Care for Calais is a volunteer run charity delivering essential aid and support to refugees living in the UK, France and Belgium. They are currently looking for help in two ways:

- A) Cash donations to buy some of life's basics such as shoes/socks and underwear.
- B) Donations of new, basic goods such as toiletries – soap, face cloths, toothpaste, toothbrushes -NOT battery /electric, shampoo, hair brushes and combs, hair bobbles/bands, sanitary wear and baby products such as nappies, barrier cream and wipes.

With your assistance and generosity, we are hoping to raise supplies to donate to Care for Calais. If you would like to contribute, a box will be left at the back of church for your toiletry contributions. A plate will be placed at the back of church for your cash donations. Thank you for your help.

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

#### **Services inside our church building**

Mask wearing is now voluntarily, including entering and exiting the building. 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](http://www.stmichaelsflixton.org/socially-distanced-services)

#### **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](http://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](http://www.stmichaelsflixton.org)
- <https://twitter.com/StMichaelsFlix>
- [St Michael's You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
- [www.instagram.com/stmichaelschurchflixton](http://www.instagram.com/stmichaelschurchflixton)
- [www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton](http://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton)

### **• GIVING AND FUNDRAISING**

**Please continue to support St Michael's Church**

Thank you all so much, as you have currently:

- Donated over £2,400 via your online donations
- Raised over £150 from your online shopping (via easyfundraising and AmazonSmile)

Please 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.