

St Alfege Church newsletter 17 October 2020

Message from Revd Caroline Risdon

As you read this, London will be moving into Tier two restrictions. The 'new normal' has changed once more and we are limiting our social contact in order to keep one another safe. I am extremely thankful that acts of worship can continue - they are exempt from all three levels of restriction. So our Sunday and Thursday Eucharists continue and the church remains open for private prayer and visitor welcome. Please do feel confident about the safety measures we have put in place; they are working and we are meeting safely together.

As I walk around Greenwich town centre though, the impact of the pandemic and restrictions are obvious to see. There have been many closures. There are likely to be many more. I worry about the difficulties faced by our local businesses and traders. Since March, we have experienced loss upon loss due to the pandemic. The loss of loved ones; the loss of contact; the loss of employment or business; the loss of homes.

The psalms are often thought about as songs of praise but they are also, vitally, songs of lament. Time and again the Psalmist writes, "Where are you, O God?" or "Turn your ears to me and hear my prayer." It is an act of faith to bring our despair and doubt and desolation before God. **I will therefore be holding a 'Prayers for the Pandemic' service on Sunday 1 November at 6.30pm.** Please do join me to pray for the losses we have experienced. We will invite our local businesses to attend or send their prayer requests to us.

Now more than ever we are called to be the people who bring something of God's light into our homes, our towns and our communities. This means being rooted in the reality of our present situation, which we bring to God in prayer. And if we feel hopeless in the face of restrictions and change, let us remember that it is not our light that needs to shine but God's.

God bless, Caroline

Revd Caroline Risdon will be on leave from 19 October to 28 October inclusive.

Sunday 18 October St Luke the Evangelist

You can access the [readings and prayers](#) for this Sunday here. The sermon will be uploaded shortly after the service. We continue to pray for those in need and the departed. If you would like someone's name to be included in the online prayer list please email dmcevoy@btinternet.com.

Please arrive in time to be seated by 9.55am for the service start at 10am. Direction will be given at communion so please wait till you are invited to go up for communion. Those who require communion in their pews should advise the welcomers of this as they arrive so they can be seated accordingly. We have several posters showing the QR code for St Alfege Church at the entrance and exit to the church. We will not be having a collection during the service but there is a contactless donation point at the South door exit and the dome and Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the North door entrance.

Concerts and recitals suspended

We are very sorry that all recitals and concerts have been suspended due to the high alert status in London for COVID-19.

Heart of Greenwich Place and People - Replacement trees

Over the next few weeks, work on the soft landscaping in the courtyard around the church will continue. Initial works include the removal of two trees on the green which have decay, physical defects and are coming to the end of their natural lives. Then as promised, nine replacement trees will be planted with works starting week beginning 23 November. It will take a few days to dig and plant the trees and access to the courtyard may be limited. We will confirm once we have a date.

There is more information about the [trees and their planting plan](#) here.

The Heart of Greenwich project has always been about access and about legacy. What an exciting opportunity we have, not only to welcome people into our beautiful church courtyard with these new trees, but to gift them to our community to enjoy for the next hundred years or so.

For further information or any questions about the Heart of Greenwich project please contact [Wendy Foreman](#).

Advent Windows

Every December St Alfege Church runs “Advent Windows” whereby the town centre is brought alive by 24 unique offerings in the lead up to Christmas. Advent Windows is now in its 14th year and this year’s theme is “Near & Far.” Read more about it [here](#).

Date for your diary

Sunday 1 November at 6.30pm Service of "Prayers for the Pandemic".

Best Wishes,



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