



The Theydon Parishes

22nd March 2020
Mothers Sunday



The Church of England
 in Essex and East London
 Diocese of Chelmsford

The congregations of the Theydon Parishes are invited to join with the churches of the Epping Forest North MMU for a streamed service live at 10.00am. It can be accessed from <https://www.facebook.com/eppingchurchUK/> or search for "Epping Anglicans" on YouTube

BENEFICE VISION

Core Values: Faith, love and community.

We seek to live these values by welcoming all, caring and teaching so that we may change lives through sharing love of God in Christ.

<p style="text-align: center;">THEYDON BOIS ST MARY'S</p> <p>Church open daily for personal prayer 9.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THEYDON GARNON ALL SAINTS</p> <p>North Porch accessible at all times for personal prayer</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">STAPLEFORD TAWNEY ST MARY'S</p> <p>Church open at all times for personal prayer</p>
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Today has been designated a day of prayer for the nation. Please join in by lighting a candle in your window at 7.00pm as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ which can never be extinguished.

Let us pray that the words below (written by Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference) may be true for us in the Benefice.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.

We are your people God, giving and loving,
 wherever we are, whatever it costs

For as long as it takes wherever you call us.

Collect for Mothering Sunday

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE THEYDON PARISHES

Monday-
Thursday

The churches of the Benefice are open during the week, and the clergy are maintaining a rhythm of prayer. A suggested Order for personal prayer will be circulated by email, and is available in printed form on request. The church bell at St Mary's TB will be rung for 5 minutes before Morning and Evening Prayer are said, and all are invited to join this prayer wherever you are.

GENERAL NOTICES

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Over the last few days, I have been struck by how nationally and globally humanity has responded to the Coronavirus outbreak. The best and worst of humanity has been on display. Many of us are fearful of what is to come, and on television and as evidenced by the images of empty shelves are taking steps to prepare and protect themselves. Contrast the words put into the mouth of Yoda in the Star Wars films; "Fear leads to anger and anger to hate and hate leads to suffering" with those of St Paul writing to the Romans "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5.3-5). This moment in our national life is I believe not one to be trapped in fear, but rather to remember that we Jesus who came and lived and experienced that darkness of the world, in a time where there was no NHS or means of even beginning to develop vaccines and medication as there is today. Only three months ago we read in our worship from the beginning of John's Gospel that the darkness cannot put out the light of Christ. As the situation develops, I pray for us; the Theydon Parishes; that we to hold onto our faith, look towards the light and be united in heart and mind.

As we have already experienced, there have been some changes to the way in which we worship together, and in the last few days the Archbishops have asked that our regular public worship services are paused for a time. Of course, prayer and worship can take place anywhere, the worship which God desires is in "spirit and truth" and there will be some resources available in due course to support

this. In addition at St Mary's TB the church bell will be rung for 3 minutes before each midweek service or time of prayer to remind us all of the presence of the church as a sign of the presence of Christ in the world and a reminder to us to pray, perhaps using a prayer such as this:-

God of healing,

Surround us with your love as together we negotiate the complexities of coronavirus.

Guide us all as we seek to support one another.

Help us to be attentive to the lonely, the isolated, the fearful and those who are ill.

We pray for everyone involved in the effective provision of food, medical supplies and pastoral care.

In the name of Jesus Christ who walks alongside us in our difficulties. Amen.

One way in which we can show the love of Christ is the way in which the vulnerable are cared for. In the Benefice we are blessed to have people with caring hearts who will be working to do all we can organisationally to support those in need – but please do not let this stop all of us phoning and checking in with those we know and offering practical support when we can.

Reading the pages of Scripture, the people of God have gone through challenging times before and will no doubt do so again. May we together remember through the days of challenge ahead that (as written in Lamentations 3.24-26) “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him”.

SOCIAL EVENTS IN THE BENEFICE

All social events in the benefice have been cancelled until further notice. The worshipping life of the benefice continues; please see the website for up to date information.

APCMs (ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS) & ELECTORAL ROLLS

The APCM for each parish in the Benefice is scheduled to take place as follows: Parish of Stapleford Tawney and Theydon Mount, Sunday 19th April at St Mary's ST immediately after 10.30am service; Parish of Theydon Bois St Mary, Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm in St Mary's TB; Parish of Theydon Garnon All Saints, Thursday 30th April at 8pm in the Gatehouse. These are important opportunities to reflect on the last year and pray, plan, and dream dreams for the future and elect Churchwardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members where vacancies occur. Please come along and have your say at the APCM for your church, and speak to the Vicar in the first instance if you would like to stand in the election. The roll revision period is opening soon. Membership is open to all who live in the parish or have attended church regularly for a period of 6 months. The dates when the rolls is open will differ in each church; please look out for the notices in your church over the next month and complete the forms which will be found at the back of each church. For more information, please contact Sam Spencer at St Mary's TB, Kate Faccini at All Saints TG and Anne Padfield at St Mary's ST and St Michael's TM; in all cases through the Benefice Office, to where forms for any church may also be returned.

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union will feature on this week's Songs of Praise on BBC One. The programme, which will be hosted by Katherine Jenkins, will showcase the incredible work of Mothers' Union in Worthing including how they support women through difficult times. The programme is due to be broadcast this Sunday at 1.15pm

NEXT SUNDAY'S MORNING READINGS

Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

ITEMS FOR NEXT WEEK'S NOTICE SHEET

Send by 9.00am Tuesday to Sarah Bowen at notices@theydonparishes.org

CONTACTS

- Vicar** Rev John Fry (Rest day Friday)
The Vicarage, 2 Piercing Hill, Theydon Bois CM16 7JN
01992 812744, vicar@theydonparishes.org; [@revjefry](https://twitter.com/revjefry)
- Associate Priest** Rev Carol Newnham (Benefice days: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday)
Theydon Garnon Vicarage, Fiddlers Hamlet, Epping CM16 7PQ,
01992 676818, associate@theydonparishes.org
- Benefice Administrator** Sarah Bowen (Tuesday 9am-2pm, Wednesday 9am -12.30pm,
Thursday 11am-2pm)
01992 814725 office@theydonparishes.org

Churchwardens

- Theydon Bois** Mary Gill: 01992 813253, mary200g@aol.com
Michael Palmer: 01992 815034, mike_palmer17@btinternet.com
- Theydon Garnon** John Chaplin: 01992 813942, charlie-chaps@hotmail.co.uk
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- Theydon Mount** Jo Shephard: jo.shephard30@gmail.com
- Stapleford Tawney** Margaret Dennis: margaretdennis@btinternet.com

Booking Enquiries

- St Mary's Church Hall** Sarah Rochester, sarahrochester71@yahoo.co.uk
- All Saints' Gate House** Kay Oakes-Ash, 01992 575828

The weekly Notice Sheet is available to view or download on our website:



www.TheydonParishes.org

