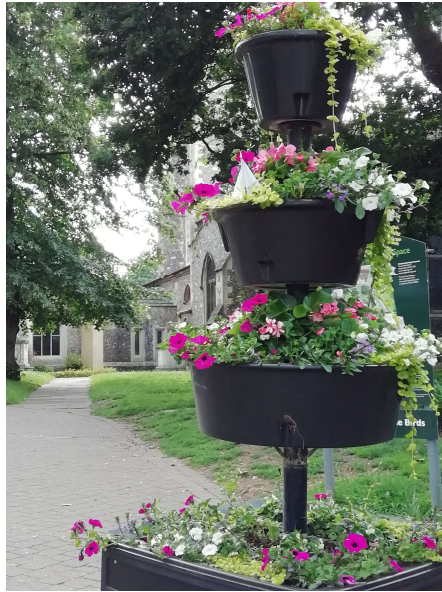


# St Mary's News

September 2021



## *Includes ....*

Go Deeper with God – the Revd Tony Rindl

A Churchyard Tomb – Peter Dean

Is Chaplaincy Calling You? – David Scourfield

*.... and much more!*

## Go Deeper with God

Sadly, the pandemic being relegated further down the list of news items is not an encouraging sign that the pandemic is waning, more a reflection of the desperate state of the world today. Afghanistan, Yemen, Haiti, America, Climate Change, Brexit are just a few of the problems the world has to contend with at the moment. Never has there been a need to gain a healthy perspective on what's going on in the world. Turning to Scripture I find the words of Jesus in Luke chapter 21 to be reassuring:

25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”



29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

*(Luke 21: 25-33)*

Although Jesus does not shy away from the reality of what is to come, and perhaps happening right now, I am reassured by his promises that the Kingdom of God is near and that his words will never pass away.

The concept of going deeper with God I hope is familiar to all of you, after all it is part of the diocesan initiative Living God's Love which has been firmly established in our thoughts for a number of years. There are three

strands to the Living God's love: Going Deeper with God, Transforming Communities and Reaching New People. In my opinion it would be impossible to 'go deeper with God' without paying attention to 'transforming communities' and 'reaching new people' However I offer the following thoughts on how we might go deeper with God both as a church and as individuals. I hope that our new monthly evening service maybe a focal point and resource for us.



I believe we encounter Jesus in many different ways: through prayer, through worship, through Scripture, through fellowship, through asking questions, through the work of the Holy Spirit and through the eyes of faith, and through acts of Christian service, which combined with our experiences of life we recognise the God who is present in our midst. I am hoping that our new Sunday evening service will serve as a catalyst for us to go deeper with God and to encounter Jesus in new ways. The first service held on 5<sup>th</sup> September looks at how the disciples are called by Jesus and how this encounter comes with the invitation to 'come and see'.

I realise many of you will not have read this article in time for September's evening Encounter service, but I hope in the coming months you will 'come and see' and join us for the evening service. I want to emphasise that this is not a new service for a new congregation but should be seen as an extension of what we do on Sunday mornings and therefore seen as a resource which will enable all of us to go deeper with God. I hope it will transform our church community as we seek to have a positive impact on the wider community, and I would hope we will also reach new people who may be attracted to a more informal and contemporary service.

There are many examples of people encountering Jesus in very different circumstances and over the course of the next few months we will be looking at some of them. One month you might be encountering Jesus through the story of Zaccheus, another month you might be invited to a Wedding at Cana. Whether you are curious about Jesus or have been a long-time

follower this service is for everyone. So come and see! And the service doesn't end at church, why not come to the pub afterwards for a post-Evening Encounter!

Alongside our Sunday services there are many other resources available and perhaps one of the most effective ways of going deeper with God is through Connect Groups. There are a wide variety of groups available to suit different tastes but in essence they attempt to serve the same purpose to Connect with each other, to Connect with the wider community, and to Connect with God. Please contact me if you would like more information and are thinking of joining a group. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Prayer is central to going deeper with God. There are many different ways in which we can pray and in each case it simply provides a means by which we can encounter God. I love the quote which goes something like 'I don't know how prayer works, but when I pray all sorts of coincidences happen.' Others might say that nothing directly changes with prayer but nevertheless as a result of prayer the person praying might be inspired as to know how to solve a problem or find strength and encouragement in dealing with a difficult



situation. I am reminded of an interview a reporter had with Mother Theresa on prayer. The interviewer asked Mother Theresa what she said to God in prayer and she replied very little but rather she simply sat in silence and listened. Then thinking he was about to have a major scoop asked the saintly Mother Theresa what God said. She replied nothing much he just listens. Even so Mother Theresa achieved a considerable amount in her life and would attribute much of it being down to prayer, providing her with the ability to help others in most extraordinary ways. There is an opportunity on a daily basis to join us, Monday through to Friday, for Morning Prayer beginning each day at 9.30am. Details of how you can join us are found on the church website and elsewhere in this magazine. There are other opportunities during the month to come together in prayer such as Connect Together our monthly meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month.

I have already suggested that we encounter Jesus in the Scriptures. Not only are we inspired by the many stories we read of Jesus' teaching and ministry together with the events of Easter, which is so central to our faith, but there is a strong sense that God really does speak to us through his written Word. Again, Connect Groups offer a way in which we can study the Scriptures together and many of us use bible study notes that prove to be a useful tool in helping us to read the bible. Please contact Alison Saunders if you wish to know more about this resource.

So, there are many ways in which we can go deeper with God and in searching for a deeper relationship with God, alongside prayer, bible study, fellowship, etc is the importance of asking questions. I don't believe there is such a thing as a stupid question, and in asking questions we learn. One way of asking questions is through the well-established Alpha course, which encourages us to ask questions. Sometimes the answers to our questions can be quite straight forward and it is useful to know the answers, but sometimes there is no straight forward answer but even then, wrestling with questions can draw us into deeper conversations and in turn lead us closer to God. So, if you want to know about God and have many burning questions about life, faith, God etc then Alpha might be just what you need. Look out for the new Alpha course beginning very soon.

I am a great believer in hands on learning. I believe that embarking on a journey of faith is a life-long journey of learning and discovery and that is what discipleship is all about. When we seek to live out our faith in acts of Christian service and kindness and seek to do God's will then I am confident we find Jesus alongside us. I am always mindful when the Apostle Paul encountered Jesus on the Road to Damascus Paul's response is to say to Jesus 'what would you have me do?' I think the question and the encounter are synonymous.

So, let's journey together, going deeper with God and the more we do so the more we can obtain a healthy



perspective on the world, that no matter what is happening around us Jesus is in our midst. His Kingdom is near, and his words will never pass away. No doubt there are many ways we will encounter Jesus as the one who calls us to 'come and see', even coming towards us walking on the stormy waters of life, because he is Lord of all.

*The Revd Tony Rindl*



Each day give yourself a little  
timeout to sit quietly and be  
thankful for all that you have.



# PCC Report – July

## Meeting on 19th July – by Zoom

*Finances* Peter Dean reported that expenditure to the end of June had continued to be lower than budget, with the result that half-way through the year the accounts continued to show a surplus of income over expenditure. Some significant expenditures had, though, been incurred in July. The Appeal in April had resulted in donations of around £5000 and increased regular giving amounting to some £500 monthly, which was well short of the Appeal target. Moreover, monthly giving could reduce by up to £750 owing to church members moving away from Watford. Overall, therefore, while the present position was better than forecast, the church's finances remained fragile.

*Buildings* Roger Courtney advised the Council that the boiler in the Church Centre flat had been replaced and, with other works in the flat, the total expenditure would approach £4000. The diocese had approved the proposal for an access platform in the bell chamber and necessary components would now be purchased. Means of providing safe access to the Church Centre roofs, necessary for regular inspections, were now being developed. The ground-level floodlights on the north side of the church were not operating owing to water leaks through the seals and as a consequence the cross on the north transept was not illuminated. This problem had occurred several times previously and we had been advised that the repair of the seals was unlikely to be completely successful. Replacement would be the optimum solution but would cost some £7000.

*Mission Action Plan (MAP)* The Vicar noted that the change in arrangements for the July Connect Together because of the Euro2020 semi-final had meant that the first congregational discussion did not take place; this would now happen in September. The visit from Bishop Michael had been arranged for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

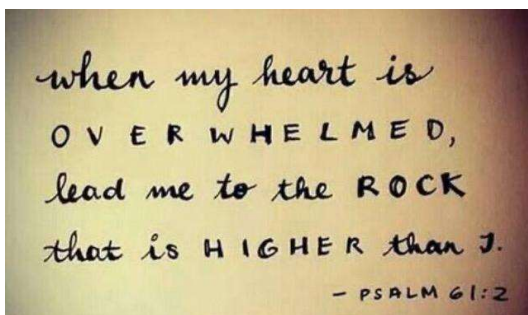
*Future plans* Josh outlined plans for services and other initiatives, some starting in the autumn but others coming on-stream later and all subject to

change with experience. He particularly focussed on the new arrangements for the Sunday evening service, the first of which would be on 5<sup>th</sup> September, and emphasised the importance of this being well supported by members of the congregation both through attendance and through promoting it to friends and contacts. The aim would be to extend St Mary's outreach through providing forms of worship that differed from those used at 10.30 but it was important that there should be significant congregation for these – an empty church would put off newcomers from entering. He and Tony would be promoting the service over the next few weeks.

*Vicar's Report* Tony highlighted the ordinations of Ash David and Phil Macaulay as significant events in the life of the church and thanked those who had supported them through recent years. With earlier ordinations, and several members of the church now being trained, this was an affirmation of the spiritual and pastoral life of St Mary's. The guidance to churches issued to reflect the change in the legal situation on 19<sup>th</sup> July put responsibility on individual parishes to decide on arrangements for opening and services in the light of their local circumstances. He expected to take a cautious approach with the aim of reaching a more normal pattern of church activity in September. He also informed the Council that on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> July the church would host a pop-up vaccination centre and expressed his pleasure at this use for the community which was only possible because of the open space offered by the nave. The Council welcomed this initiative.

*Roger Courtney*

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## A Churchyard Tomb

Christine, Ray and I had the pleasure of welcoming Derek Harty to St. Mary's recently.

Derek wrote:

Situated in the grounds of St Mary's Church in Watford is the Harty Tomb which contains the remains of William Harty who died in 1794. I do, quite honestly, believe that this man is my Great, Great, Great, Great Grandfather.

I am the son of Clifford E Harty and was born in Kingston Jamaica in 1942. My other ancestral links to William Harty are as follows:

- Grandfather Walter H Harty 1878-1941
- Great Grandfather William Copeland Harty 1823-1845
- Great Great Grandfather Charles William Harty 1788-1893
- Great Great Great Grandfather William Harty Jnr 1756-1824
- Great Great Great Great Grandfather William Harty 1724-1794

*Peter Dean*



# Current Affairs **Connect Group**

## Levelling up **health**

*Last month, the Current Affairs Group discussed **Levelling Up: What does it mean for health policy?** The UK has the worst health in Europe. There is agreement across the political spectrum that health inequalities exist, have been made worse by the pandemic and need to be addressed. But what does this mean for the NHS and wider government, for individual responsibility and for churches?*

### *Background*

The UK has the worst health in Europe with high rates of heart disease, alcohol consumption and obesity. There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that health inequalities exist, have been highlighted and made worse by the pandemic, and need to be addressed.

Richard Sloggett, the co-author of the recent All Party Parliamentary Group for Longevity (the APPGL) report *Levelling Up Health*, admitted in an article for Conservative Home that while life expectancy had increased for men and women under the Labour Governments up to 2010 it had gone into reverse under the subsequent Coalition and Conservative governments.

Men living in the least deprived areas in England can, at birth, expect to live 9.4 years longer than men in the most deprived areas and women 7.4 years. Life expectancy in the north of England is also lower than in the South. In addition, there are also similar gaps in:

- the number of years we can expect to have a healthy life;
- obtaining the necessary, timely treatment to prevent avoidable death;
- long-term health conditions which are one of the major causes of poor quality of life in England;
- various types of mental ill-health conditions which exist across a range of groups, including sexual orientation, gender and ethnicity; and in
- access to health services with certain groups (e.g. people in more deprived areas, asylum seekers, Roma/traveller communities, black and LGBT people) receiving less care relative to their needs than

others, which often leads to poorer experiences, outcomes and health status.

Apart from its personal and social impact, health inequality costs the economy £13bn a year in lost productivity.

What's more, Covid-19 has made things worse. The most deprived places in England had double the Covid mortality rate of the least deprived. There would have been 40,000 fewer deaths recorded if the national mortality rate had been as low as the least deprived areas.

The APPGL Report called for action at four levels:

- central government, setting the goal, the plan, funding, regulation, and committing to action on high priority public health issues;
- regional and local action, by harnessing the power of communities, the NHS and local and regional government;
- the individual, by empowering and supporting people to lead healthier lives; and
- action by business to support healthy lifestyles and restrict harmful marketing practices.

And, indeed, Johnson's Government appears set to dismantle the controversial Lansley's reforms of the Coalition Government by shifting:

- from competition to collaboration;
- from NHS-centrism to a more holistic vision of health;
- from short-term efficiency to long-term innovation.

This year's Health bill contains widely supported proposals for integrated care, which have been developed and consulted on over recent years by the NHS itself. It removes outdated barriers to joined-up working between GPs, hospitals, and community services. However, many, including NHS leaders and Conservative MPs have criticised the powers these reforms will give to the Health Secretary to abolish NHS bodies and intervene on any pretext, and to control appointments to the 42 local boards.

### *What does the Bible say?*

Building on the principles that we are made in God's image (Genesis 1.27) and love for one's neighbour (Leviticus 19.18; Mark 12.31), there are many verses in scripture which command equity and fairness (e.g. Leviticus 19.15; Micah 6.8). And there is an important link between economic justice and health. Isaiah makes it clear (Isaiah 58. 3b, 6-8a) that a society cannot be healthy where there is oppression, exploitation of workers, poverty, homelessness, and turning away from our responsibilities to each other. There was no health service in the ancient world and so the crowds went to Jesus desperate for healing which he provided free (e.g. Mark 1.32-34), a principle followed first by Christian monasteries and then by the NHS. But we also have a responsibility to take care of our bodies and to be accountable to God for them. They are not our own but God's, bought with the price of Jesus's death, temples of the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1.26-29; 1 Corinthians 6.19-20; Romans 12.1-2). The Bible commends a healthy lifestyle through its dietary laws and exercise (Leviticus 11; 1 Timothy 4.8).

### *Reflections*

We strongly supported the need to ensure equal access to NHS services, equal experience of the NHS, and equal outcomes of treatment. But we considered that NHS reform could not by itself achieve health equality. Aside from vaccination programmes, its role is primarily a national illness service designed to treat, rather than prevent illness. It does little to keep people healthy in the first place and consequently accounts for a mere 20% of England's health care outcomes.

Other inequalities of health such as in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy need to be dealt with through regulation, promotion of healthy lifestyles including the provision of local sporting facilities, and removing the underlying conditions such as food poverty and homelessness that cause bad health.

In terms of regulation, the process has already begun with the introduction by Cameron's government of the 'sugar tax' on certain drinks to tackle childhood obesity, and related conditions such as diabetes and heart disease to help people reduce their daily sugar intake had already introduced a sugar tax. Further regulation is needed to encourage the food industry to supply

healthier, less addictive food (less fat, less salt, less processing) and to change consumer eating habits.

More action is needed by central and local government to ensure equal access to playing fields for schools, as well as other local recreational and sporting amenities, including cheap admission to e.g. swimming pools. Churches can assist in promoting greater responsibility for one's own health through healthier eating and more exercise, both through preaching and practically with groups such as St Mary's Runners.

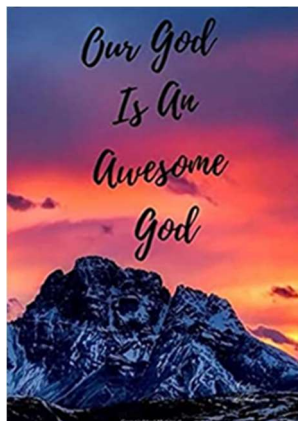
Much ill health, especially obesity and mental illness, is caused by people's lack of self-worth. Churches have a significant role to play in preaching self-esteem through Christ: that each person is valued and loved so much by God that he gave his life for them. One member commented that they had been much assisted with their own mental health issues in understanding this.

Finally, by founding and/or supporting things such as food banks, homelessness and debt charities, churches can help to mitigate some of the underlying issues that cause health inequalities.

*The Current Affairs Group next meets at 8pm on 10 September to discuss **Levelling up education**. Subject to any changes in guidelines, we hope to be in the Church Centre.*

*The Current Affairs Group*

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## Is Chaplaincy calling you?

The beginning of July 2021 seems such a long time ago now, but it was only two months ago that I started my role as Lead Chaplain for Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy (WTCC). Although Chaplaincy work has been a big part of my life for much of the last 11 years, during the last two years or thereabouts I stepped back from volunteering to commit time to the discernment of God's call to me towards ordination. In effect this meant that starting work with WTCC was pretty much like starting any job afresh.



A lot of my time has been spent getting up to speed with Chaplaincy procedures and processes, sorting out ICT and working through many other operational issues with Pam Rastall, our fantastic administrator. I have also been very keen to meet with all our existing Chaplains (currently 10 in all) and Street Angel volunteers (again, about 10 in the team but with many not able to go out now for one reason or another) to introduce myself or catch up with those I have known for some time. Given what we all have gone through in these Covid times I have been keen to ensure all volunteers are happy to be resuming their roles either out and about on the street and/or when visiting businesses and organisations.

WTCC is a small Christian Charity set up in 2003/04 as a response to the significant problems the town centre was experiencing due to the number of people coming into the town during the evening at weekends to use the many pubs and clubs. The Street Angels' team was the first project set up by WTCC in response to these issues. Over the past 15 years WTCC has also organised volunteer Chaplains to visit businesses, organisations, public

places in and around the town centre. In essence, all our volunteers are Chaplains. The main difference is that some operate during the day and others at night as part of the Street Angels' team.

People are often confused by the term Chaplain. Whilst some Chaplain volunteers have been ordained ministers from local churches, most volunteer Chaplains have and will continue to be 'lay' Christians: that is, those without any formal roles or training within their church. WTCC draws its volunteers from a range of local churches in and around Watford, and from across Christian traditions and denominations. Whilst our services are provided to all we meet, regardless of their faith or non-faith, as a Christian charity we require all volunteers to have a Christian faith and worship regularly within a 'church' fellowship. The other main requirement is that our volunteers have a heart for loving people, regardless of who that person is.

Our daytime Chaplains currently operate in several different venues and areas in the town centre. These include: Pret, Wetherspoons, Columbia Press (another Wetherspoon's owned bar), Starbucks, the Town Hall, the Atria shopping centre (working with facilities and security staff, and the centre management team), Watford Surgery and Meadowhall Surgery, Watford Market (and High Street stallholders) and Market Street businesses. Volunteers are typically on shift for two hours, once a week or fortnight, depending on their availability and the agreements made with the individual venues. When on shift the Chaplains are recognisable through their Chaplains uniform (a shirt/blouse or jacket) and will sit and wait for the opportunity to talk with someone or engage with business owners in their designated patch.

The Street Angels' team goes out on a Saturday night once a fortnight. The shift starts at 10pm and will go past midnight and sometimes into the early hours of the next morning. The team will walk up and down the High Street keeping an eye out for those in need, but their help can also be requested via a radio the team leader carries, which is connected to both the CCTV control room and all the security men and women working the doors of the pubs and clubs.



We are continually looking for new volunteers. Could that be you? Please prayerfully consider whether you could support WTCC with your time.

Don't be put off by thinking you are not qualified to be a Chaplain. We provide support and training, but the main requirement is a Christian heart for people.

Don't think you are too old. So long as you are 18 (and therefore legally responsible) your age doesn't matter. We often find it is the inter-generational nature of our volunteers and 'clients' that most effectively opens doors to conversation. Quite often, in their time of need, people of all ages just need that mother or father figure to come alongside them. If you are thinking that you couldn't possibly walk up and down the High Street all night, we are exploring the use of our Street Angels' minibus which will operate as a fixed station somewhere on the High Street.

Don't be put off by the shift patterns. We are flexible in our expectation of how often and how long our volunteers can be on shift. We do ask for a regular commitment of time but that doesn't mean once a week or till 3.30am in the morning as a Street Angel!

Don't be put off by fears of safety. Chaplains are never asked to undertake duties if they are not comfortable. Chaplains only undertake duties after agreement has been made with the businesses or organisations they will be working with in relation to who they will work. Street Angels work under



procedures to protect them whilst out on the street and work closely with (but not to) the police and security staff at licenced premises.

Finally, if you are thinking about becoming a Street Angel don't be put off by the idea of having to deal with sick. The Street Angels work as a team and there is always someone more comfortable in dealing with this aspect of the job!

After 11 years of involvement with WTCC being a Chaplain still excites me. Knowing that God can and does use us in many varied situations to bring Jesus into people's lives is wonderful. Do you think being a chaplaincy volunteer is for you?

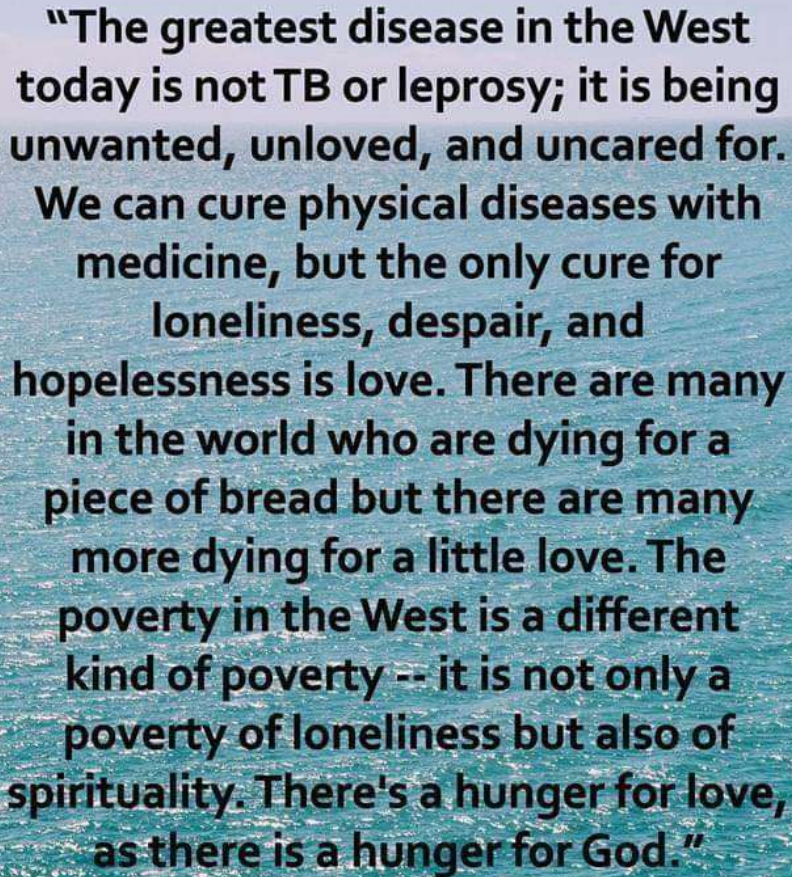
If so give me a call on 07483 178582 or email at [davidscourfield@watfordtcc.org](mailto:davidscourfield@watfordtcc.org).

Further information on volunteering or helping WTCC financially please visit us at [www.watfordtcc.org](http://www.watfordtcc.org)

Finally, we are nothing without prayer and I would ask that you keep WTCC and its Chaplains and Street Angels in your thoughts and prayers. A monthly News and Prayer diary is produced and if you would like to subscribe please let me know.

*David Scourfield*  
*Lead Chaplain*  
*Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy*



A person is standing on a rocky cliff overlooking a vast, turquoise ocean under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”**

**Mother Teresa**

**MindfulChristianityToday.com**

## Services

The Church is open  
on Wednesdays and Saturdays each week  
between 12.00noon and 2.00pm  
for Private Prayer  
*(this may change soon – please keep an eye out on the website  
and Facebook page for details of changes)*

## Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (said) in church  
on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday only each month;  
10.30 am Morning Service in church and via Zoom  
every Sunday;  
5.30 pm Encounter in church and via Facebook Live  
on 1st Sunday of month only  
*(preceded at 5.00pm with refreshments)*

## Wednesday

12.30 pm Holy Communion in church

## Monday to Friday

Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9.30am  
*(for Zoom link please contact Church Office)*

Please keep up to date with what is on offer  
via our Facebook page  
or the website [www.stmaryswatford.org](http://www.stmaryswatford.org)

# Who's Who at St Mary's

*(They are all available via the phone or online)*

## Vicar

The Revd Tony Rindl | 01923 225189 / 07792 505480  
[tony.rindl@gmail.com](mailto:tony.rindl@gmail.com)

## Curate

The Revd Joshua Brocklesby | 07764 738596  
[jbrocklesby.stmaryswatford@gmail.com](mailto:jbrocklesby.stmaryswatford@gmail.com)

## Churchwardens

Alison Saunders | 01923 244390  
Peter Dean | 07876 154387

## Children & Families Worker

Cath Da Costa | 07961 564385  
[familyworker.stmaryswatford@gmail.com](mailto:familyworker.stmaryswatford@gmail.com)

## Facilities Manager

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## Church Office

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