

## How is Steph Williams dealing with Lockdown?

My life over the last few weeks has definitely slowed down and I am getting used to it. I am working from home and in school once a week– so there is some sense of ‘normality’. The alarm still goes off each day but I do hit the ‘snooze’ button regularly!!

## So how have I been keeping myself busy?

I enjoy being creative so I have painted some pictures, sewn some ‘uniform’ bags and mask fasteners for NHS staff too. I have also made use of the ‘spare’ time and the good weather to do some long overdue gardening.

## What am I reading?

I have just finished reading ‘The Burning Chambers’ by Kate Mosse, a novel set in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century in the Languedoc region of France. I have just started ‘Tombland’ by CJ Sansom another historical novel set in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century but this time in England. If you enjoy historical novels then I would recommend these authors.

## What am I watching?

I am excited about the return of The Great British Sewing Bee – I would love to have access to all of that fabric! I enjoy watching most ‘Food’ related programmes- currently I’m watching ‘Great British Menu’ and ‘Gordon, Gino & Fred’s American Road Trip’. My go to programme is ‘Doc Martin’ as it is an easy watch and as Port Isaac is somewhere, we visit regularly I can ‘escape’ to Cornwall for an hour.

## How am I keeping fit & healthy?

I am normally quite active so have missed going to the gym, to walking netball training and matches. But I have been alternating between going for a leisurely walk with my husband and going for a run. My daughter has also tried teaching me some dances – which has been very entertaining!

## What are you all getting up to?

If you would like to contribute to the back page, please email your answers to Sarah on [revsarahtodd@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahtodd@gmail.com) or give her a ring on 07534 720160

# St Barnabas

w/b May 3rd  
2020

# Church Matters

## Hello to you all.

Welcome to this week’s Church Matters Newsletter This enlarged newsletter aims to keep church family in contact, share prayer requests, strengthen our discipleship and bring us closer together while we are unable to gather. If you are receiving this newsletter but aren’t on the mailing list then please contact Sarah on 07534 720160 or [revsarahtodd@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahtodd@gmail.com)

## Sunday Livestream Worship Schedule

3rd May: Easter 3

### Live Stream on our Facebook Page

10.00 am

### All Age Worship on Easter Sunday

11.00 am

Zoom coffee

Meeting ID: 814 4612 4839

Password: 769349

It is also possible to dial into this coffee time...please get in touch with Sarah for more information.

5.30pm

### Zoom Informal Worship with Music, Reflection & Prayer.

[https://](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7850164036pwd=TWk5WGHDbEUrMGZPR2RpMIF2blAvQT09)

[us04web.zoom.us/j/7850164036pwd=TWk5WGHDbEUrMGZPR2RpMIF2blAvQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7850164036pwd=TWk5WGHDbEUrMGZPR2RpMIF2blAvQT09)

Meeting ID: 785 016 4036

Password: 673972

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Next Sunday: 10th May: Easter 4

1000 am All Age Worship

Find us at:

## Acts 2:38-end

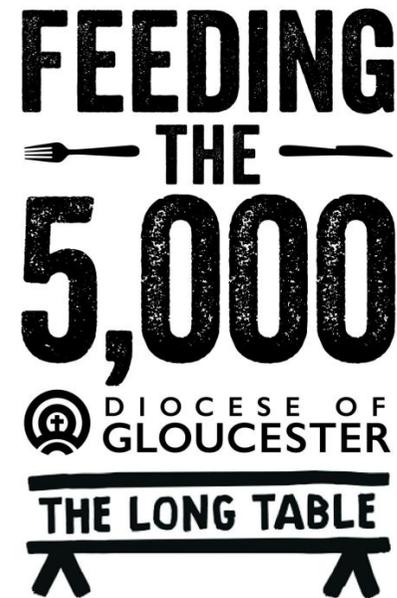
Peter said to them [the crowd], 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## John 10:1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly



**The Long Table** - We are excited to be partnering with Gloucester Diocese, the Long Table and Roots Café to provide meals for those who can't get out and about. Email [revsarahtodd@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahtodd@gmail.com) if you want more details or would like to find out more about receiving meals.

We are also looking for drivers to help deliver meals (Mon-Fri) in our area when they can. If you have already been DBS checked at church great - but if not, there is a simple form to fill in that requires some references.

Would be great to hear from you!

**Eye Spy:** A blue cross on St Barnabas Church each evening. John W and Katherine K were in cahoots to set up this sign of thanks and prayers for the N.H.S. You can find pictures on our Facebook page. Thank you John & Katherine

### At least I haven't made a mistake this bad...yet...! Bulletin Bloopers

"Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'"

"The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish."

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

## News

**Coronavirus - Stay at home but continue to pray, to love and to care for the vulnerable.**

**We have a Vicar** - We are delighted that Rev. Sarah Todd is now officially our Vicar! As you know, the service on Zoom took place on Monday April 27th at 6 pm. We were really pleased that Bishop Rachel invited our Ministry team to be present. There was a nervous moment when Sarah disappeared from our screens because her internet connection had failed! The Bishop continued her address then played soothing music until fortunately Sarah reappeared and the service continued. We congratulate Sarah and welcome her wholeheartedly, we wish her a long, happy and fulfilling ministry at St. Barnabas. We look forward to a joyful celebration led by Archdeacon Hilary in our lovely Church as soon as that will be possible. God bless you and your family Sarah.

**The Church Office** - Although the Office is closed, the office email address is still going to be checked throughout the week by a member of the team.

**Barnabas Buddies** - The 'Barnabas Buddy' system has been set up in conjunction with already existing visiting arrangements, but all now on a totally phone based operation. If you or anyone you know in the parish feels you could be a phone buddy or you know of someone isolated, lonely and in need of a chat then please call Katherine the churchwarden on 528508 or email [katherine@katherinekear.co.uk](mailto:katherine@katherinekear.co.uk).

**Daily Prayer and Worship** - Daily prayer will live stream on the Facebook Page at 10.00 and 21.00. Worship will be live streamed on Facebook each Sunday at 10.00. If you need help in getting onto social media to get connected, please ring Sarah on 07534 720160. If you can't access these, or indeed even if you can, you are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer together at 09.15 and 21.15, beginning and ending the day in prayer together. There are also prayers for home use included in this news sheet.

**Finance Matters** - Like many churches, charities and other organisations, St Barnabas is facing serious financial challenges. Whilst we believe that God will provide for our needs we rely on giving from our church family, grants and donations from others to continue our ministry here in Tuffley, White City and Robinswood. We don't receive any money from the government. We will be looking at ways to make giving easier on line, but if you aren't a member of the parish giving scheme, could you consider giving electronically? If so, our e-banking details are: HSBC, St Barnabas Church PCC Sort Code: 40 43 42, Account Number 91283383

## A Message from Bishop Rachel.

### To the people of St Barnabas

The Reverend Sarah Todd: Vicar of St Barnabas, Gloucester and Priest-in-Charge of St Katherine, Matson.

In this season of Easter I want to thank you for the different ways you are being Christ's people of love and hope to one another and to the wider community. As we continue to live these strange days, I am reminded of the first disciples who certainly knew what it was to live with the unexpected.

As you know we had been planning that Sarah Todd would have a clear ending as curate and then return to be licensed and installed as your new Vicar and Priest-in-Charge of Matson at a wonderful service attended by many. However, plans have had to change. Having consulted with Archdeacon Hilary and the churchwardens I am keen that Sarah takes on the authority of incumbent as soon as possible and so on Monday 27 April I will be licensing her over Zoom from my home. The churchwardens will also be present from their own homes. It will be a very short and simple event so that the legalities are covered. We will then look forward to a significant service at St Barnabas when we are all able to return to our church buildings. That service will be about welcoming Sarah as vicar within the context of celebrating the ministry of the whole worshipping community as you continue to live out your baptismal calling to follow Christ.

Please hold Sarah in your prayers as you continue to support and pray for one another.

Please be assured of my prayers for you,





**Please pray...**

**For our Church family and the wider Church:**

- Sarah as she begins her new role as Vicar of St Barnabas and Priest in Charge at St Katherine's Matson.
- The PCC as they continue to help oversee the running of the Church during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Those who were planning Weddings and Baptisms with us this spring and summer as their plans have had to change.

**For our community and the world:**

- Oak Hill C of E Primary School, Alderton, Thomas Holdstock (Headteacher)
- Winchcombe Abbey C of E Primary School, Sally Johnson (Headteacher)
- That the Diocese will find models of ministry that work in each Parish and that members of each congregation will find their roles within it.
- For the Nursing and Care Homes in our Parish as the outbreak is affecting many socially as well as physically.

**For the Covid-19 pandemic**

- The World Health Organisation and National Health organisations as they work to find a vaccine for Covid-19.
- All staff working in hospitals and health clinics, that they would be encouraged when people leave recovered from Covid-19.
- The Bishops in the Church of England as they offer advice and support to the Churches in their Dioceses.

**For the sick and the bereaved**

- Those who are self isolating and those who are supporting them.
- The sick: Janet, Richard, Colin, Tim, Mick, Joan, Noel, Julia, Rachel, Christopher, Ruby, Clare, Kay, Mary, Phil, Terry, Des.
- Those who have died: Bridget Stevens, David Butler, Jenny Perry, Peggy Whitfield, June Hull, Audrey Fielding, Avril McNulty, Ray Etheridge, Ann Harries and those who grieve.

Parish office: CLOSED to the public  
office@stbarnabasgloucester.org.uk

Revd Sarah Todd (Curate) 07534 720160 stbarnabascurate@gmail.com

Myra Bowen - Davies (Churchwarden) 302508 myrabowendavies@me.com

Katherine Kear (Churchwarden) 528508 katherine@katherinekear.co.uk

**Prayers at home**  
**A short service at any time of day**

*You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background*

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him.  
Nahum 1.7

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Today I am feeling (*name how you are feeling*) because (*name reasons why*)  
Help me to remember you love me and are with me every day.

**Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, "I am with you always". Be with me today as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I am giving you worship with all my life,  
I am giving you obedience with all my power,  
I am giving you praise with all my strength,  
I am giving you honour with all my speech.  
I am giving you love with all my heart,

I am giving you affection with all my sense,  
I am giving you my being with all my mind,  
I am giving you my soul,  
O most high and holy God.  
Praise to the Father,  
Praise to the Son,  
Praise to the Spirit,  
The Three in One.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen