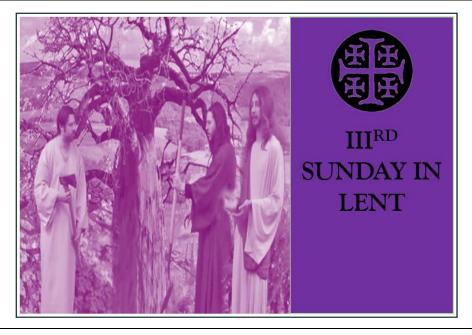




ISSUE 250 3rd Sunday of Lent 23 March 2025



#### PRAYERS AND READINGS AT MASS - Click here

for use with Spiritual Communion for use on a Sunday

Please download the service booklet to go along with these prayers and readings **here.** Please print this out as it is used every week and then use the readings given on the link above to make your Spiritual Communion.



Address The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Stanwell and St Matthew Ashford, The Parish Office, 99 Church Road, Ashford, TW15 2NY















#### **Notices**

#### EASTER LILIES

If you would like to make a donation of £5, in memory of a loved one, a lily will be displayed in their name at Easter. Please either fill in the form via the website:



https://www.smam.org.uk/supporting-us/church-flowers or give your name and the name of the loved one and the Church you would like the Lily placed at, together with a cheque for £5 (other payment options shown below), in an envelope.

to

Heather Hurrell 07867 534 556

Janet Errington 01932 788902

Melanie Cooper 01784 390461

by Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> April (palm Sunday).

The price of the lilies can vary considerably. Any surplus will be spent on additional flowers for Easter, or put into the general flower fund. Payments can also be made by bank transfer (details available from the office) or via the website using the donate button on the home page.

#### **CONFIRMATION COURSE**

Embrace Your Faith: Sign Up for Confirmation Training! Are you ready to take the next step in your spiritual journey?

The Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with God, receive the Holy Spirit, and commit to a life of faith and service.

Join our Confirmation Training Course and prepare to be empowered and inspired. Through meaningful teachings, reflection, and community, you'll gain the knowledge and strength to live out your faith boldly.

Don't miss out—sign up today and embrace the gift of Confirmation!

If you are interested in confirmation, talk to Fr. Stuart.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Quiz Night

see the poster for more details tickets can be ordered via the website

https://smam.sumupstore.com/product/quiz-night or by contacting the parish office

#### **ARTWORK EXHIBITION**

Fantastic news for Anne Pemberton! It's great to hear that one of her batiks has been accepted into the special event in Staines. Being part of an exhibition with 88 other pieces made by other people. We hope the event is a great success for Anne and everyone involved! For further information please see poster below.



#### Your Support Makes a Difference



As we come together in faith and celebration, we are reminded of the vital work of our parish community. Your generosity plays a crucial role in ensuring that our church remains a place of welcome, worship, and care for all.

Every gift—whether given through the QR code, the plate, or the card reader at the back of the church—helps sustain the ministries that nurture faith, extend outreach, and offer hope to so many.

Thank you for being part of this sacred mission. Together, we are ensuring that God's love continues shining brightly for generations.

#### Stewardship letter from the Wardens

Last week Fr John spoke to us after masses in both churches to ask that we all consider how we can increase our financial contributions to the mission of our parish.

As Churchwardens we are very involved in the administration of the parish and the maintenance of its buildings. We also have the benefit of seeing how the diocese supports us behind the scenes.

We are therefore unable to ignore an uncomfortable truth. We have not "paid out our way" for several decades and this is not sustainable. The future of our parish is dependent on all of us.

We must try our very best to ensure that we, and those who follow after us, continue to benefit from high quality and accessible pastoral and spiritual care, in the spaces that exist only because our predecessors prioritised investment in building and maintaining them.

We give our full support to this campaign which encourages us all to try to contribute more, whether that be a little or a lot according to our individual circumstances.

#### Investing in Our Parish: Why Your Giving Matters

We're a growing community. Every week, more people like you walk through these doors—some rediscovering faith, others exploring it for the first time. This place isn't just somewhere we gather on Sundays; it's where we find meaning, build friendships, support one another, and encounter God. It's where we celebrate life's biggest moments—baptisms, weddings, and farewells. It's where we ask life's biggest questions.

And to keep all of this going, we need your help.

#### Why Are We Asking?

We are working to **raise awareness** in our congregations of the financial reality we face. Many people assume that churches are just 'covered' financially—but the truth is, we rely entirely on the generosity of those who worship here.

The 2020 Anglican Giving Survey highlighted some surprising facts:

- What fraction of Anglicans said they do not give to their church?
  - One third—that's 1 in 3 worshippers.
- **?** What percentage of Anglicans have never been asked to give regularly?
  - 40%—nearly half of those surveyed!

So, if you've never been asked to give before, **you're not alone**—but that's why we're having this conversation today.

#### Our Parish's Financial Reality

Like every household, our parish has financial needs. At present, our annual outgoings total £140,000, but we receive only £35,000 in regular giving from the congregation.

This significant shortfall has serious consequences:

- ♦ We are currently £40,000 behind on our Diocesan Share—also called the Parish Common Fund—which covers the cost of our parish priest, clergy training, parish support teams, and more. In effect, we are not covering the cost of the shepherd who guides us in faith, teaches our children, visits the dying, and celebrates the sacraments that nourish our souls.
- ♦ We need to make urgent repairs to the Lady Chapels in both of our churches. The exact cost is still unknown, but it is essential work, allowing us to continue worshipping in this house of God.
- ♦ In total, we need to increase our giving by £60,000 per year just to meet our basic financial responsibilities.

With around 200 regular congregants each week, this means that the average weekly giving per person needs to be £13.50.

#### Where Does the Money Go?

Your giving makes a real difference. It helps us:

- Fund our parish priest The person who leads, teaches, and supports us in our faith.
- **Keep our doors open** Covering the cost of running this building, from electricity to essential repairs.
- Support parish initiatives Helping those in need, funding children's catechesis, and creating a welcoming space for all.

And here's the best part: If you're a taxpayer, the government will add 25% to your donation through Gift Aid—at no extra cost to you. That means instead of giving £13.50 a week, you'd only need to give £10.80, and we'd still get the full amount.

#### Is £10.80 a Week Doable?

Let's break it down:

- 5 £10.80 a week is about the cost of:
  - One takeaway lunch at work 🛑
  - A couple of pints on a Friday night 🥯
  - A midweek Deliveroo delivery fee
  - One cinema ticket (without snacks!)

In financial terms, this is 1.5% of the average weekly salary in the TW15/TW19 area.

For a typical full-time worker earning around £720 per week, that's less than the price of a Spotify subscription.

We're not asking you to stop enjoying life. We're asking you to consider whether you could shift a small part of your spending towards something that makes a **lasting impact**.

#### How Can You Help?

- 1. **Join the Parish Giving Scheme** The easiest, most tax-efficient way to give. It's secure, flexible, and even allows you to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. You can choose to give anonymously if you prefer.
- 2. Set Up a Standing Order If you prefer, you can arrange regular giving

through your bank.

**3.** Make a One-Off Donation - If a regular commitment isn't possible right now, a one-off gift still makes a big impact.

We've made it super simple to get started. You'll find all the details following on from this letter. If you need help, please talk to the office, Fr John, Julie Bell (the treasurer) and we will be there to walk you through it.

#### Why This Matters

Giving isn't just about covering costs—it's about being part of something bigger. It's about investing in a place that **changes lives**. Your support keeps this parish thriving—not just for you, but for **everyone who walks through these doors in the future**.

So, I'm asking you: Will you help build the future of our parish?

Read what follows. Pray about it. And if you can, commit today.

Thank you—and may God bless you for your generosity.

Julie Bell, Luis Elias, Pauline Muldowney and Ian Spencer Churchwardens

#### MAKE A ONE-OFF GIFT TO OUR CHURCH OR SET UP REGULAR GIVING ONLINE AT www.parishgiving.org.uk



### An introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme Why are regular gifts so important to our Church?

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of all our cities, towns and villages: by our wonderful buildings; by worshipping together; by serving our communities and by sharing our faith and values. This valuable contribution to our community has a cost, of which 75% is met by personal gifts. For our Church to survive and grow, we rely on regular gifts so that we can plan confidently for the future.

#### What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been set up to help us best manage regular gifts. It is a charity that is owned and funded by the National Church Institutions of the Church of England.

#### How does it work?

Gifts can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, using the attached gift form and Direct Debit instruction. Even though gifts are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to our parish, giving you peace of mind that your gift cannot be used elsewhere. Unlike a utility bill you are always in charge of what you give. Your gift will be passed back to our parish by the 10th of the month. Gift Aid will be received separately once PGS has received it from HMRC. The unique feature of this scheme is the option for you to commit in principle to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. Whilst this is a voluntary decision, it is one that could potentially have a huge impact on the life and future of our church.

#### What are the main benefits?

The main beneficiary of this scheme will be our church. Through your generous commitment, we can be assured of a regular, tax-efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting our church today and for the future.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Who is responsible for my personal information?

Although PGS has been set up to help us manage gifts, it is a separate legal entity from our parish and must comply with data protection law. By returning the gift form you consent to PGS using your information for the purposes of the Parish Giving Scheme. For more information please see PGS's privacy notice available on the PGS website www.parishgiving.org.uk/privacy-policy. Alternatively, please call PGS on 0333 002 1260 for a copy of the privacy notice.

#### Why can't our parish offer Direct Debit?

Direct Debiting is a highly regulated system, and is only offered by Banks for established businesses or organisations who are considered financially sound and reputable with proven internal control systems.

#### Will our parish be charged for this scheme?

There is no direct charge to us for using the Parish Giving Scheme or processing your gift. The annual running cost of the scheme is met by the National Church Institution of the Church of England.

#### Why am I giving to PGS?

In order to claim Gift Aid and manage your gift on behalf of our parish, it is necessary that your gift is legally given to PGS who are handling all the administration on our behalf. The gift is restricted to our parish and cannot be used by PGS for any other purposes.

#### Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

Unfortunately not. In minimising costs it is important that all gifts are collected on the same day each month, which has been agreed as the 1st.

#### What rate of inflation will be used?

If you opt-in to increase your gift annually, we will use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as an independent and well known measure of inflation. As your giving anniversary approaches, we will calculate your increased gift using the most recently published monthly CPI data.

#### What if I say yes to an inflationary increase, but my circumstances change?

We fully understand that circumstances can change; please rest assured that you will be written to 30 days in advance of any increase with the revised amount. If you are unable to meet it simply let us know.

#### What next?

#### How do I go about signing up to the scheme?

Fill out the form opposite, with as much detail as possible using a black pen in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Detach it from this leaflet following the cutting line and post it to the address given below.

Important: It is essential to complete all sections of the gift form in particular 'Church I Parish name; Diocese of; and PGS Parish code'. Without this information in full PGS cannot process your gift.

**Note:** We welcome gifts from couples, so if you wish to make a joint gift please write 'Mr & Mrs' in the 'other' box. For the purpose of Gift Aid however they need the signature of just one individual who pays sufficient tax to cover the gift. Please add your title in the Gift Aid signature box so they know which individual the declaration belongs to.

#### Then what can I expect?

Within 10 working days you will receive a letter confirming your personal details, the level, frequency and date of your first gift and the parish you wish to restrict it to. Please check this letter thoroughly to ensure that all the details are correct. In this letter you will receive a PGS reference number (located below the address) which needs to be retained by you, and quoted in any future communication you have with the Parish Giving Scheme. There will also be a bank reference code which begins with 'PGS Thank You', and ends with a unique number code. This is the description which will appear on your bank statement when each gift is given.

#### How will our parish be notified of my gift?

We will receive your gift in our parish bank account by the 10th of the month and Gift Aid will be received separately once PGS has received it from HMRC. Our parish's Planned Giving Representative receives a statement detailing the names of those who have given gifts through PGS. PGS will provide our parish's Planned Giving Representative with your postal address, however you can decide to remain anonymous by ticking the box on the right. If you decide to remain anonymous only the amount of the gift will be shared with our Representative. We wish to encourage you to remain known to us, so that we can thank you and tell you more about how you can support us and to avoid mistakenly approaching you in the future to consider a regular gift to our church.

#### I currently give by standing order; how do I stop this?

Unfortunately PGS is unable to cancel a standing order for you, only you may do this. If you bank online it is very simple to do through your online account, otherwise you will need to contact your bank direct.

#### How do I go about changing my gift in the future?

We know that circumstances change and your ability to give may increase or decrease over time. If you wish to make a change please notify the Parish Giving Scheme using one of the methods provided in the contact information box below quoting:

- · Your PGS reference number (found below your address on PGS correspondence)
- · How much your existing gift is for
- · What you would like it changed to
- · When you would like this change to be brought into effect

Should you wish to have a confidential conversation about your options in changing your gift, please don't hesitate to contact our Parish Giving Representative or the Parish Giving Scheme at the address below.

Note: For administrative reasons the Parish Giving Scheme cannot make any changes within 10 working days of the next gift date..

#### Who do I contact for help?

Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GLI 3BD Tel: 0333 002 1260 Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk www.parishgiving.org.uk

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#### REGULAR GIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a secure and simple way of giving to St Mary and St Matthew on a regular monthly basis

(or quarterly or annually if you prefer). It works by making a Direct Debit from your bank account on the 1st of the month, which is credited to our parish bank account by the 10th of the month. If eligible, you can opt to add Gift Aid and PGS claims this on our behalf, passing it back to St Mary and St Matthew which benefits our cash flow.

#### OPTIONAL ANNUAL INCREASE

It is also possible to make a one-off gift online and add Gift Aid if you are eligible. Instead of setting up a new Direct Debit, you use a debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Scan the QR code to get started.

#### ONE-OFF GIVING

It is also possible to make a one-off gift online and add Gift Aid if you are eligible. Instead of setting up a new Direct Debit, you use a debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Scan the QR code to get started.

#### THREE WAYS YOU CAN SET UP A REGULAR GIFT WITH PGS

- The simplest way is online click here.
- By phone: 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday 09:00 17:00
- By post using an application form available from the office.

You will need your bank details to set up the Direct Debit and, for phone or postal applications, the St Mary and St Matthew unique parish code 230623271.

Thank you for considering this option in your support of St Mary Stanwell and St Matthew Ashford.



#### DATES FOR THE NEXT TERM



Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

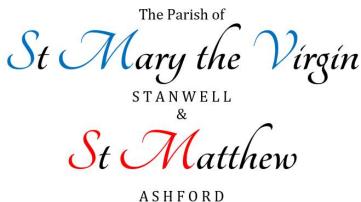
between 1500 - 1700 hrs

St Mary the Virgin, Church Approach, Stanwell, TW19 7JS



There is no cost for attending these sessions For all the family! Children must bring a grown up office@smam.org.uk 01784-259093





## 2025 LENT COURSE "THE CREED"



at St Mary's, Mondays throughout Lent Starts at 19:00 with Mass









#### Lent, Easter and Holy Week Services 2025

Ash Wednesday (05/03/2025)



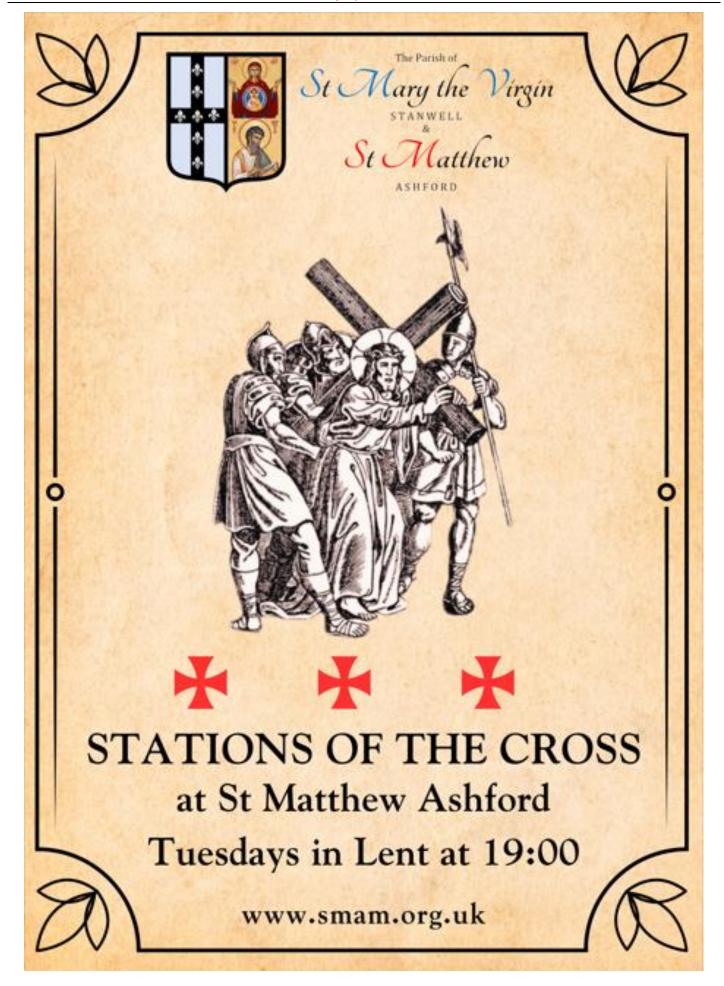
	12:00	Low Mass	St Matthew's				
	19:00	Solemn Mass	St Mary's				
	Mondays (shroughout Lent)						
	19:00	Mass followed by Lent Course	St Mary's				
	Tuesdays (shroughout Letts)						
	19:00	Mass and Stations of the Cross	St Matthew's				
		Mothering Sunday (30/3/25)					
	09:30	Family Mass	St Matthew's				
	11:00	Family Mass	St Mary's				
	18:30	Evensong & Benediction	St Matthew's				

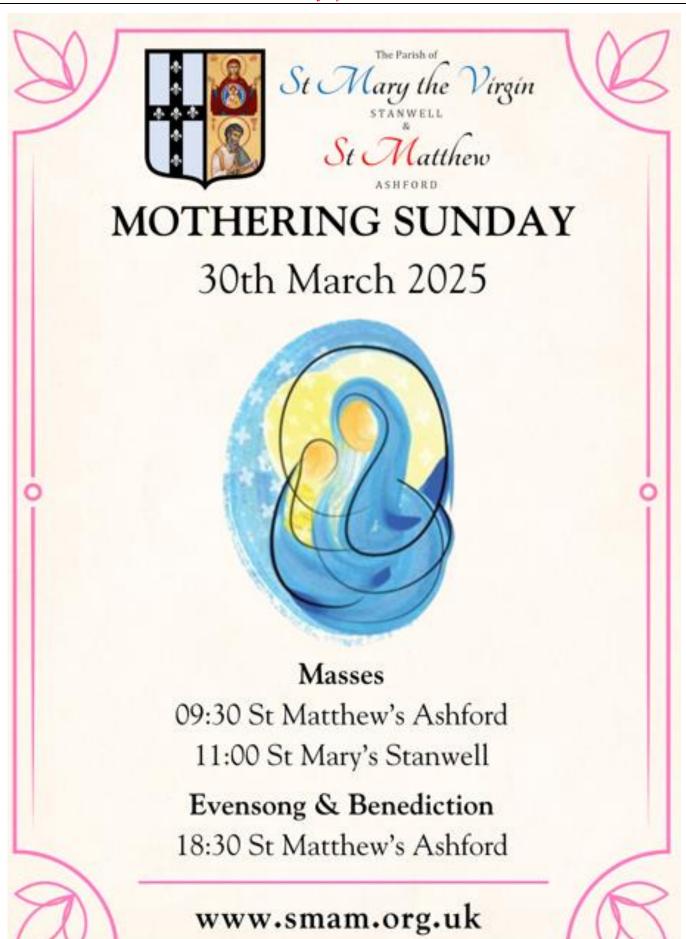
#### Holy Week

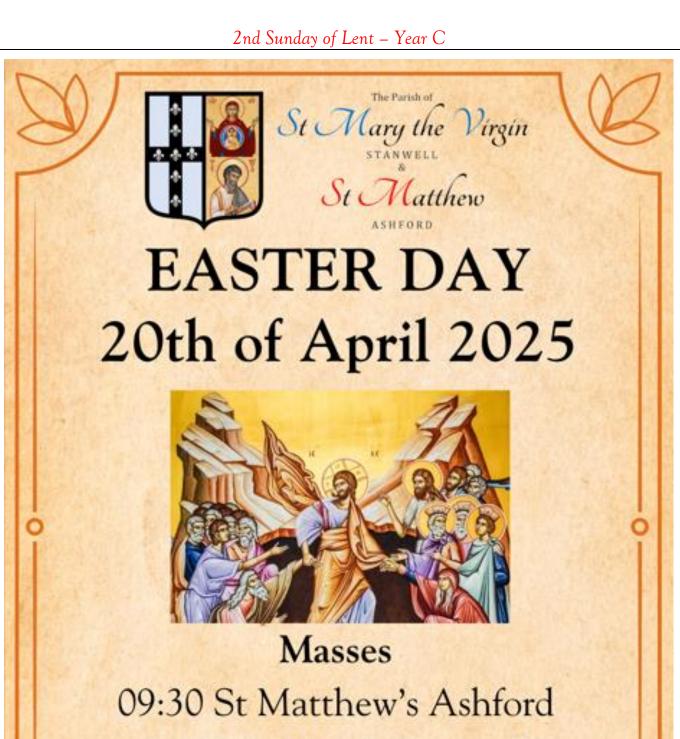
	Palm Sunday (13/04/25)		
09:30	Parish Mass	St Matthew's	
11:00	Parish Mass	St Mary's	
18:30	Evensong & Benediction	St Matthew's	
	Monday - Wednesday (14-16/04/25	)	
19:00	Mass and Stations of the Cross	St Matthew's	
	Maundy Thursday (17/04/25)		
12:00	Low Mass	St Mary's	
19:00	Solemn Mass followed by the Watch	St Matthew's	
	Good Friday (18/04/25)		
10:00	Stations of the Cross	St Matthew's	
14:00	Liturgy of the Day	St Mary's	
	Holy Saturday (19/04/25)		
20:00	Vigil Mass	St Mary's	
	Easter Sunday (20/04/25)		
09:30	Parish Mass	St Matthew's	
11:00	Parish Mass	St Mary's	
18:30	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	St Matthew's	

www.smam.org.uk









11:00 St Mary's Stanwell

**Evensong & Benediction** 

18:30 St Matthew's Ashford

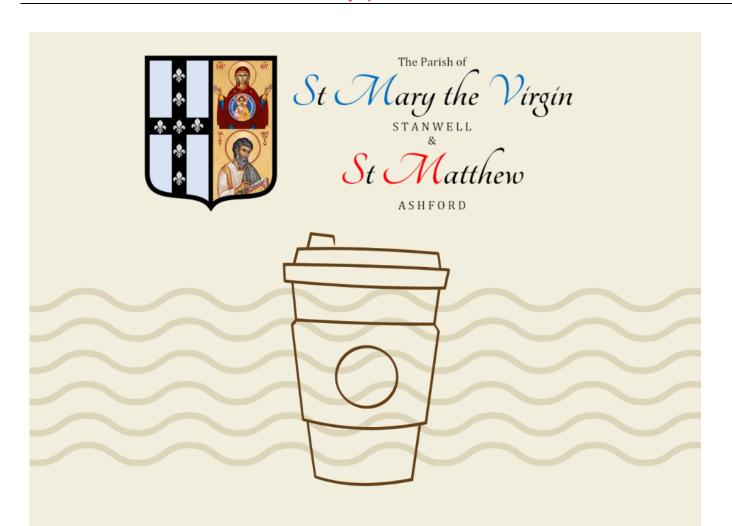
www.smam.org.uk



TICKETS £8

Two Course Meal Bring your own Drink

Tickets via the website www.smam.org.uk or the Parish Office: office@smam.org.uk



# COFFEE MORNINGS

Wednesdays - St Mary's Thursdays - St Matthew's 10:00-12:00

www.smam.org.uk

The Parish Magazine can be downloaded here

Praying Together						
Sun	23rd	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent - our prayer life				
Mon	24th	School caretakers				
Tues	25th	The Annunciation of the Lord				
Wed	26th	Our local Post Offices				
Thurs	27th	Friends and neighbours				
Fri	28th	The sacrament of marriage				
Sat	29th	Time spent with God				

**THE SICK:** Pamela Aldridge, Banaras Ali, Milly, Ali, Tina Flowers, Stephen Gamble, Sandra German, Christine Macklin, Roger Macklin, Neil Monks, Joan Mulford, David Saunders and The Holy Father Francis.

#### THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

IN LOVING MEMORY: Jane Ambler, Paul Beasley, Bert Blackett, Florence Butterworth, Eileen Collings, Rosina Dawson, Graham Fox, Pauline Holland, Mabel Lumley, Cleveland Marshall, Alexa Murphy, Margaret Pemberton, Ernest Sandels, Selena Thompson.

#### **SERVICE TIMES**

Time	ne Service		Place				
	Weekdays:						
08:30	Lauds - Morn	ing Prayer	Online				
18:00	Evening Prayer & I	Holy Hour - Tuesday	St Matthew's				
19:00	Low Ma	ass - Tue	St Matthew's				
12:30	Low Ma	ss - Wed	St Mary's				
09:15	Low Mas	s - Thurs	St Matthew's				
18:00	Evening Prayer &	k Holy Hour - Fri	St Mary's				
19:00	Low M	St Mary's					
	Saturdays:						
09:00	The Ho	oly Rosary	Online				
Sunday	Sunday						
09:30	Parish	n Mass	St Matthew's				
11:00	Parish	n Mass	St Mary's				
18:30	Evensong &	Benediction	St Matthew's				
	REGU	LAR EVENTS -					
Wednesday:	Morning Café	10:00-12:00 before M	<b>l</b> ass				
Thursday:	Coffee Morning	After 09:15 Mass					
	Bell Ringing *	19:00					
Friday:	Choir Practice	20:00					
*(Alternate between St Mary's and St Matthew's please contact the Tower Captain for more details.)							
_		PASTORA	PASTORAL CARE				
Feasts, Saint'	s days, Holy days and						
other spec	ial occasions occur	Please advise Fr Stu	Please advise Fr Stuart or one of the				
through the	e year; see notices in	Pastoral Team of the	Pastoral Team of those who are sick at				
	he weekly news sheet vebsite for details.	home or in hospital, so that they can be prayed for and visited as appropriate.					

#### **PASTORAL OFFICES**

Preliminary information and relevant forms for Baptism and Marriage can be collected from the parish office at the advertised times. Baptisms usually take place on the first Saturday or third Sunday at St Mary's and St Matthew's. If you would like to have your child baptised, then come along any Sunday for the main Mass and meet us there!

For information about preparing your own or a loved one's funeral, please contact the parish office.

#### PARISH DIRECTORY

#### The Parish Office

The Vicarage, 99 Church Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 2NY 

© 01784 259093 
©: office@smam.org.uk

: www.smam.org.uk

#### **CLERGY**

PARISH PRIEST:

The Rev'd Canon Fr Stuart King SSC

The Vicarage, 99 Church Road, Ashford TW15 2NY

fr stuart@smam.org.uk

**CURATE** 

Fr John Hillman SSC

: fr john@smam.org.uk

#### LICENSED LAY MINISTER(S):

**Melanie Cooper** 01784 390461

: melanie@smam.org.uk

**Alan Joel** 01784 244320

①: alan@smam.org.uk

**Sarah Pain** 01784 259093

: sarah@smam.org.uk

#### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

**Church Wardens:** 

Julie Bell, Luis Elias Pauline Muldowney & Ian Spencer warden@smam.org.uk

Director of Music:

Philip Buckmaster - <a href="mailto:music@smam.org.uk">music@smam.org.uk</a>

Tower Captain:

Dr. Chris Marshall - bells@smam.org.uk

Mothers' Union:

Heather Hurrell - MU@smam.org.uk

St Matthew's Flowers:

Heather Hurrell - flowers@smam.org.uk

**Church Hall Bookings:** 

hall@smam.org.uk

St Mary's and St Matthew's are part of the See of Fulham in the Diocese of London.









