

GRACE REPORT

Grace is a congregation of St Mary's. In more normal times we meet once a month on the second Saturday at St Mary's at 8pm followed by a café. We're run by volunteers and the services and events that we hold are organised using the creative talents of the community as well as engaging guests to lead or contribute. The values of Grace are create, participate, risk, engage and are things we hold dear and aspire to.

Some of the highlights from 2019 included:

- Two photography based services- one around the theme of Home whilst the London Independent Photography exhibition was on at The Rickyard in Walpole park, and one in St Mary's where we made advent calendars with photographs prompted by advent readings
- A 'homecoming service in St Marys to ground ourselves following the building works and nomadic summer
- Meeting with The Table, a community in Earsfield to share a BBQ and labyrinth
- Taking part in the Fiesta festival in Earlsfield by providing an installation and service on the theme of grief and hope
- A retreat day in a forest, a labyrinth, engaging with the climate debate through visiting XR events and environmental exhibitions
- Exploring our response to divisions in society that were emerging through two services ~~United Kingdom Come~~ and ~~This is Great Britain~~
- Eucharist of Light- a guest curation from Beyond in Brighton

Since April 2020 we have been meeting entirely on line. Through our monthly worship/community gathering and a weekly lockdown liturgy we have endeavoured to stay connected with each other and continue to promote a thoughtful creative response to worship in an unusual time. We have been particularly excited to have been able to continue to receive visitors to Grace over this period and to reconnect with friends who have moved away from London, and wouldn't normally be able to join our monthly gathering. Our normal café is now a zoom break out room.

The services we have held in lockdown include:

- An Easter vigil
- God is Nowhere - A chance for community members to share a creative response to lockdown
- Retreat
- Wherever we are we remember God who always goes with us
- And a community gathering in September to reflect and re-commit for the next year

The current members of the Facilitation Group are Gill Wilcox, Jonny Baker and Mike Rose.

See the web site – www.freshworship.org and of course anyone is always welcome to join us- for the remainder of the year on-line- so this is a great time to join and experience a bit of Grace

Jonny Baker, Mike Rose and Gill Wilcox

September 2020

