

GRACE REPORT

Grace is a congregation of St Mary's meeting once a month on the second Saturday at St Mary's at 8pm followed by a café. During lockdown we began Gracelet, a monthly simple service of regular liturgy with quiet reflection and community prayer hosted on Zoom and this has continued. Grace is run by volunteers and our services and events reflect the creative talents of the community as well as engaging guests to lead or contribute. The values of Grace are create, participate, engage and risk and Grace aims to shape its community life and actions around this ethos.

Since May 2021 we have been moving back to in-person worship initially outside and since September back at St Mary's. In May 2021 we undertook a walking pilgrimage and meditation from St Mary's to Richmond with opportunities for prayer and reflection along the route. During the summer some of the community met to discuss a way forward post-covid deciding this conversation could not be rushed and would continue in our monthly services.

In September we returned to St Mary's for *Unlocked* with the aim of recommissioning our relationship with the building remembering events and services connected with different parts of the building. Our 2021-2022 services have been:

- October 9th: *Embers* – reflecting on what are the embers of Grace we want to relight.
- November 13th: *Planetary Mess* – a service responding to the COP26 conference.
- December 11th: *Nine* – Grace's version of the traditional '9 lessons and carols' run as a hybrid service with some participants joining online.
- January 8th: *Labyrinth* – a prayerful space to start the year reflecting on the past and looking to the future.
- February 12th: *Together* – considering what it means to be a community after two years largely spent apart.
- March 12th: *Being disciples* – first service inspired by Rowan Williams' book *Being Disciples*.
- April 9th: *Uncommon ground* – an exploration of creating communities while celebrating our differences.

This year we returned to a pattern of meeting more frequently during Lent. Our reading and discussions during our monthly services, Gracelet and two community meals have been inspired by Rowan Williams' book *Being Disciples*.

Throughout the year Grace has collaborated with A Rocha and The Table community in Southall in the creation of a labyrinth in the Wolf Fields Urban Nature Reserve. Working parties have met to clear the ground and build the design which will be opened formally in June.

The current members of the Facilitation Group are Jonny Baker, Sue Donnelly and Mike Rose. See the web site for a bit more about us, and to make use of our liturgy for your personal prayer – www.freshworship.org and of course anyone is always welcome to join us.

Jonny Baker, Sue Donnelly and Mike Rose

April 2022

