

St Mary's Monthly Message

April 2022



Photo courtesy of Tony Kerwood

A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell

Dear Church Family,

With April comes the great celebration of Easter and the good news that Jesus is alive! Living in a world that is very fearful, where many are afraid of so many things, how wonderful to be celebrating that Jesus' resurrection marks the triumph of love over fear.

As some of you know, one of the things I have loved over the years is reading bedtime stories with my children and grandchildren. Amongst the favourites when they were younger is Michael Rosen's much-loved picture book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Perhaps you can remember its repeated refrain, when one obstacle after another is encountered: 'We can't go over it. We can't go under it...we've got to go through it!' Now whether it's with what's happening in Ukraine or what we've experienced with the pandemic, there has been this experience for all of us of having to go through it. And we need to apply the same principle to the message of Easter. Of course, we all want to fast forward from Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday to Easter Day, but to really appreciate Easter we do need to reflect upon what happened to Jesus on the cross and why it needed to happen. What happened on that first Easter weekend was totally unexpected but transformed the lives of Jesus' first disciples from sadness to hope. May we know the joys of new life this Easter as we realise that you can't walk around the cross but need to come to it first before experiencing the lasting joys that Easter brings!

IN THE APRIL ISSUE

A Note from David

*David Stephenson
on leaving the role
of church warden*

*Clare Barbary on
new challenges*

In Other News...

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Many Blessings, David.

The Interview: David Stephenson

David and Averil moved to the area in 2014. They have two adult children Sarah, who is engaged, and Mark who is married. Averil joined the clergy team at St Mary's as an LLM at the beginning of 2016 and in April 2018 David took on the role of church warden.

Q. David, have you enjoyed being church warden and will you miss it?

A. Yes, I do enjoy being church warden, as I particularly enjoy engaging with people and also supporting our rector David. I will certainly miss this, but it is definitely the right time for me to stand down from this role, at over 75, so others with more energy can take up the reins. It has certainly not been dull!

Q. You have been a steady hand throughout the pandemic. How did it affect the role?

A. When Covid struck in 2020, it did create considerably more work for everyone in leadership roles including the wardens. However, we worked well together as a team in seeking to manage the consequences and enabling the church to continue to move forward.

Q. Can you tell us a little about your faith?

A. I became a Christian in 1964, at a walkers' week house party at Lee Abbey in north Devon, when I saw how Christians lived together as family, accepting each other as we are and encouraging one another in our faith in Jesus. As with everyone, we have had many ups and downs during our lives and still do, as we were not promised an easy ride, in fact sometimes a more difficult one as Christians. However, since becoming a Christian, I have been aware of Jesus, and His Holy Spirit, all the time; whether in joy, sadness, weakness or strength. He has given me a passion for sharing the Good News and I love worship as it brings me closer to Him. Jesus has led me to be involved in many different aspects of Christian ministry over the years, and I am sure that He has not finished with me yet.

Claire Barbary tells us about herself

Zu and I met in 1980. We were married in 1982 and settled in Hayes Middx where we worshipped in a Baptist church. During our time there Zu was the church treasurer, and I led the children's church. In 2002 we moved to Harefield and worshipped in the Baptist church and were deacons for 19 years.

We retired in 2018: Zu from his vending business and myself from a long career in nursing. In 2019 we believed that it was right to downsize, and that God was encouraging us with the verse in Isaiah 55 v12 "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you and the trees of the field will clap their hands"

We looked for a place with a good church and local amenities that was near our younger grandchildren, who we help look after. We kept being drawn back to Princes Risborough. The pandemic made life more challenging and house moving more complicated, however God also encouraged us with Psalm 121 and also Romans 15v13. In June 2021 we moved to Princes Risborough.

We feel blessed to be here and led to worship at St Mary's. We both love family life, like to have an open home and enjoy creative art, cooking and gardening. I also enjoy prayer running, singing, languages and different cultures. I feel humbled to be considered for the PCC (and a little nervous), however I know that as I trust God, He will guide me (Proverbs 3 v 5).



It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant

MATTHEW 20:26



In other news...

Prayers for Ukraine: are held twice weekly on zoom - Weds @ 6.30pm and Fridays @ 9.30am. Zoom Link - **Meeting ID:** 714 5146 5358 **Passcode:**262GY9

Pastoral Care: If you know of someone who is ill, needing support, or would welcome a telephone call or visit, please contact either Eleanor McGregor or the Parish Office. We can send 'get well' cards or 'thinking of you cards' on behalf of our church family - please help us to reach out to those who need to know we care.

Ladies, it's time for a dinner together, and a chance to meet up with friends old and new on 7 April at 7.15pm. This time it will be at Villa Bianca. Please contact Hazel Williams hazelwilliams@hotmail.com by 4 April if you can make it.

If you are interested in **becoming a member of the PCC** at our next APCM on 26 April, please contact either David Williams or the Churchwardens.

If you would like to join the group going to **New Wine** Week 2 -29/7/22 - 3/8/22, please book under St. Mary's Church so that you can be placed together in the camping area. You are promised a warm welcome!

We are in need of an **enthusiastic and active 'Eco-Champion'** to help make our church a greener place. If you feel you could 50% job-share in this activity, please contact the church office, or Garth Wilkinson

St Mary's Play Cafe is now open Tuesdays in term time 9:30-11:00am. It is a free parent and toddler group with soft play, toys, dress up, coffee and snacks, and much more. It will take place every Tuesday morning in term time. Interested? Want to help out? Contact Pat at stmarysprcurate@gmail.com.

Giving and Tax: if you would like to support the running of our church, please consider regular giving. Are you a tax-payer? If so, the church could gain an extra **25p per £1 if you agree to "Gift Aid"** your giving; you still pay the same, but the church reclaims the income tax. Please speak to Michael Hoey at mhoey@btinternet.com or on 275192.

Children's Society Coffee Morning: Friday 22nd April, 10.30am to 12 noon at the home of David & Diana Parker, 'Hazel Trees', 12 Bell Crescent, Longwick.

Looking ahead: **St Mary's Pre-School Fun Day**, Saturday 7th May in church from 11am to 4pm. Stall, games and refreshments for all the family.

Chiltern Arts Events: Carice Singers Choral Discovery Day, Saturday 14th May
The music of Ralph Vaughan Williams and his Swedish Contemporary
10:00am - Discovery Day workshop, 3:00pm - Concert at St Mary's Church

The Lighthouse Quiz will take place on Saturday 11th June, at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church. £5 per head, tables of up to 8 people. Bring your own drinks & nibbles. Raffle and Heads & Tails game. To book a table please contact Jamie Carter on 01844 273286, booking is essential.

Church Key Amnesty: If at one time you were entrusted with a set of church keys which you no longer need, please could you return them to Pete Wynn. We need to facilitate our new Ministries in church by providing keys to our main volunteers. Thank you!

*Have you
thought
about
joining the
leadership
team?
Contact the
Parish
Office
01844
273300*

*Sign up for our
weekly e-news
by going to the
homepage on
our website.
Receive all the
news from St
Mary's direct
to your phone!*

Dates for your Diary

Monthly Lunch Club: Weds 6 April and 4 May, 10:00am to 3:00pm

Messy Church: Sun 10 April, 3.15pm book via Eventbrite from the website.

Services at Icknield Court led by Janet Henderson: Sun 10th April, Sun 8th May and Sun 12th June – all at 2.30pm.

Bereavement Drop In Group: Mon 11 April 3:00pm in the Chapter House

Holy Week: Evening Prayers in Church, Mon 11, Tues 12, Weds 13 April at 7:30pm

Gatensbury Place: Easter Service & coffee morning for residents at 10.30am with David Williams and the bellringers.

Last Supper 14 April 6:00pm. A family meal recalling the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends. Please book via Eventbrite from the website or add your name to the sign-up sheet in church.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil: Silent prayer in church from 8pm to midnight.

St George's Day Parade Service: Sunday 24th April at 3pm with the Scouting Assoc.

APCM April 26 7:00pm. The Annual Church meetings to review the previous year, elect Churchwardens and PCC members and hear about plans for the year ahead.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

For Easter Services, please see the flyer in church or refer to the website.

A zone in church is allocated to those who prefer to wear a mask and sit socially distanced - please ask the Welcomers on arrival to show you to this area.

Parish Communion continues at 9.30 on Sundays in church and live streamed to your home. See the St Mary's website for the link to our YouTube channel.

Live@St Mary's all age service continues at 11.15 both in church and live streamed to your home. Kid's Church welcomes children to join them for activities during this service - contact Jenni Kerr at childrensworke@stmarysrisborough.org.uk for further info on sessions.

Mid week Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 10.30.

Third Sunday in the month, **Evensong with shortened HC at St Peter's Church, Ilmer** at 6pm from April 17th (check website for variations).

For your Prayers in April

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

A Prayer for our Leadership Team

Heavenly Father, we ask you to give wisdom and support to our Clergy, PCC and Wardens.

May everything they do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help.

We ask for guidance throughout the year that all of their thoughts and actions would reflect your Holy will and be aimed at the spiritual transformation of our parish community.

We ask you to grant them the grace to love their neighbours more perfectly.

Amen

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of:
Ellen Barnard, Keith Ridgeley and Margaret Ayres.

We give thanks for the Baptism of Ellis Styling on 24th April.

Copies of this newsletter are available in Church for you to collect and pass on to friends and neighbours.

Join our weekly prayer meeting on Zoom every Wednesday at 9am – Zoom invite available from the Parish Office .

We encourage everyone to pray for one another. Ask the Parish Office if you would like to receive details of prayer requests.