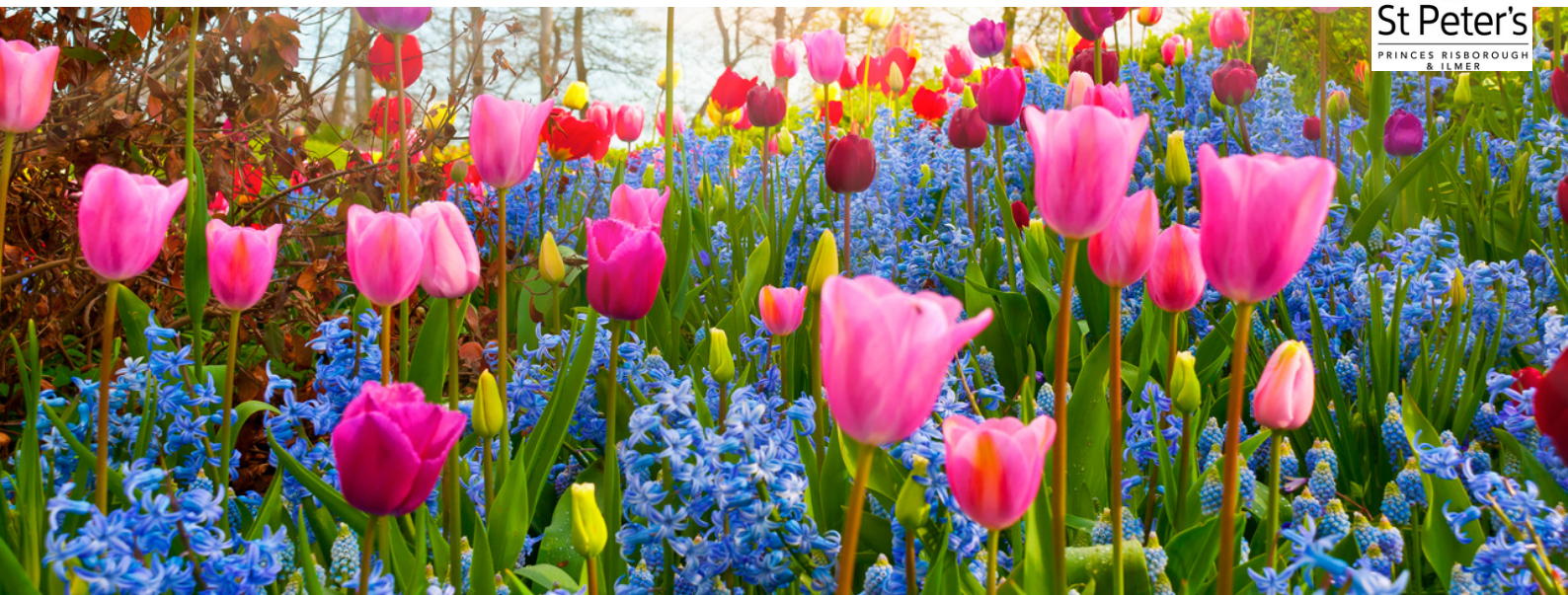


St Mary's Monthly Message

April 2024



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

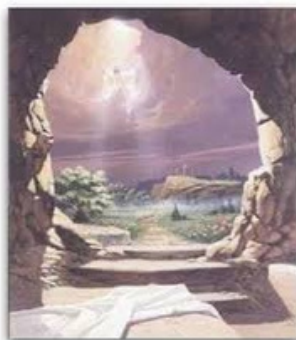
Dear Church Family,

After years of frustrating searching, on 4 November 1922, the famous Egyptologist Howard Carter discovered the entrance to the tomb of Tutankhamun. Carter later described it as: 'The day of days, the most wonderful that I have ever lived through and ...one whose like I can never hope to see again'. As Carter entered the tomb with his torch, the sponsor, Lord Carmarthan, was standing above ground and shouted down, "Can you see anything?" Carter replied, "Yes – wonderful things". His light revealed the shining gold statues and fabulous jewels; and going further in, there was the now world-famed treasure, the golden sarcophagus of King Tutankhamun.

In this month of April, when we continue to celebrate the message of Easter, we are mindful of the disciples of Jesus entering into the tomb where Jesus had been laid, and what did they see? They saw something truly wonderful. Something they didn't expect and would never forget. It wasn't golden statues or a royal sarcophagus but an empty tomb with discarded grave clothes. Jesus had risen and with the stone rolled away he had the last word. This is a treasure beyond comparison that has changed the lives of millions since that first Easter morning.

Alleluia! Jesus is alive!

Every blessing, David



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What's inside?

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legacy giving*

*Debby
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In Other News...

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Jane Cotton: Faith and Legacy Gifts

Jane is married to Stephen and lives in Bledlow Ridge. For many years she was an HR Director, first in the Civil Service and then with Oxfam. Since then she has been, and continues to be, a Trustee of a number of charities. A new one she is starting with is International Alert, who work on peacebuilding, which seems very necessary at present.

And how does faith feature?

I became a Christian at University and worshipped in Methodist churches as Stephen was a local preacher. We then worshipped and worked in our village church, but moved to St Mary's after taking part in the online services during Covid. I realised that my faith had become a bit stale and needed feeding, something I have greatly appreciated at St Mary's through services, courses and a Life Group. My career choices, notably working in the charity sector, have also been a reflection of God's leading in my life.

You have recently taken on a couple of roles at St Mary's; tell us about those.

I now organise the Sunday coffee bar rotas; big thanks to everyone who serves on the rotas. And I am just taking on a role encouraging us all to consider leaving a legacy to St Mary's in our Wills – watch out for a new leaflet and PCC policy! I have led on legacies as a trustee at the local Wildlife Trust, and currently at Thames Valley Air Ambulance. These are great causes, but they're not about growing the Kingdom of God. Gifts in Wills to St Mary's enable our outreach, worship and community work to continue into the future. Do think and pray about it.

Debby Cadwallader: the history of the East Window

As the east window is being restored, it is interesting to discover something about it. The original window was rectangular but in 1868 a pointed arch was added to the top, in keeping with the newly raised roof and gothic arch above the entrance to the chancel. In 1910 the clear glass was replaced with stained glass. It was made by the workshop of Kempe and Tower. Charles Kempe is a well-known designer of stained-glass windows. He died in 1907 and his work was continued by Walter Tower. The signature of their work is a tower superimposed on a wheatsheaf, which appears in our window in the bottom left-hand corner, though it is difficult to see from below. There are many Kempe windows in churches and a society dedicated to commemorating and maintaining his work: thekempetrust.co.uk. When it was installed the trees outside would not have been nearly so big and so more light would have made it much easier to appreciate the design.

The subject is Christ in Majesty. He is seated on a throne with the Archangels Michael, with a red dragon, on the left side, and Gabriel on the right, holding a staff and sceptre. Below these figures in the centre is St Mary, sitting with the infant Jesus on her lap. Either side of her are kneeling angels who are swinging censers. Their multicoloured wings are made of peacocks' feathers, a signature of Kempe's designs, which make his work very distinctive. Below is the dedication telling us that the glass was given in memory of the Revd Reginald Bardolph, who was Rector from 1895 to 1897, by his wife, Emily. In his Historical Guide to St Mary's, Rex Kidd says: 'The whole window is designed to show the glorious majesty of Our Lord and his humility in entering humanity in lowly form for the love of you and me'.



Jane Cotton

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23



Debby and Jim Cadwallader

In other news...

Well done to all those who helped to raise **over £800 for Lighthouse at the March Craft Fair**; and also to everyone who attended the **World Day of Prayer Service at St Teresa's which raised £450 for WDP causes**.

Huge congratulations to the Team for **securing Diocesan funding towards a Children's and Families' Worker**. The recruitment process will now begin with the aim of having someone in post before the autumn.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (**APCM**) will be held from 7.15pm on Tuesday 23 April in church. All are invited to attend this uplifting evening when we are encouraged by what God is doing in St Mary's and the wider community. Reports of the church's activities will be presented, including an overview of the Finances. Finally, Revd David Williams will give his 'Rector's Charge' for the year ahead.

David Wallace recommends a book to read during this Easter season entitled: 'Stations of the Resurrection (Encounters with the Risen Christ)', written by Guli Francis-Dahquani and Malcolm Guite. It's available from St Andrew's bookshop, or Eden.

St Andrews Literature Festival, celebrating the best of Christian Literature, is being held in Great Missenden over the weekend of 21-22 June. 20+ authors will be there to share their latest works, including our own John McGinley and well-known christian writers Paula Gooder, Andy Kind, Paul Kerensa and Fiona Castle. Book your tickets at: www.stalitfest.co.uk.

Could you help out with **cleaning the church**? Due to our squeezed financial situation, St Mary's is no longer choosing to employ a cleaner. There are different jobs to suit everyone. Speak to the Parish Office or Heather Hardy - signup list in church.

Can you help out at **Play Cafe**? Already running every Tuesday morning 9.30-11.00 and aspiring to run on Mondays too, Play Cafe is a blessing to those mums, carers, grandparents who bring toddlers to enjoy some fun in our church. It is well-attended and we are looking to expand to another day. Can you help with chatting to adults, cuddling babies, making drinks, putting away?

We are looking for volunteers to help with a new initiative with **young people at the Crew Cafe** every Monday from 3-4.30pm from 29th April. You will be working with a WYFC person to build relationships & you needn't attend every week.

Contact the Parish Office if you can help with any of the above activities.

Looking Ahead: Chiltern Arts Concert in St Mary's, Sunday 12 May, 7.30pm Violinist Fenella Humphreys and novelist James Runcie invite audiences to join them as they take a deep-dive into Bach's world with a combination of music and readings, drawing from Runcie's latest novel, 'The Great Passion', which explores powerful human themes of family life, grief and religion. Full programme of events and tickets available from: chilternarts.com.

'Big Parenting Questions' is a day seminar run by Care for the Family and it's coming to High Wycombe on 18 June. Speakers Cathy Madavan and Robin Vincent help to explore how to navigate the leap from childhood innocence to independence. Tickets from: cff.org.uk/bigparenting.



Children's and Families' Worker recruitment



Can you help with cleaning the church?



Play Cafe

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

Lunch Club Wednesday 3 April, 10am-3pm in church.

Bereavement Drop-in Group in the Chapter House, 3pm 8 April.

Discover Sessions: Q & A / discussion for anyone following the Bible in a Year scheme with Andrew Walmsley, 7.30pm on 18 April and 10.30am on 20 April, Chapter House.

St George's Day Parade Service, 3pm on Sunday 21 April.

Play Cafe: Is closed for 3 weeks over Easter and reopens on 23rd April. It is regularly open on Tuesdays during term time from 9.30am to 11am in church.

Tea for All in the Chapter House, 2.30pm on 28 April.

Ladies Breakfast, Saturday 4 May, 9am in Church Hall.

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 11 May, 8.45am in Church Hall.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

Holy Communion at 8am (*said*)

Parish Communion 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 at 11.15 in church. Kid's Church welcomes children to join them for activities during this service - contact the Parish Office for further info on sessions.

Mid week Holy Communion is on Wednesdays at 10.30 followed by coffee.

Third Sunday in the month (21 April) at 6pm, Evensong & shortened HC
St Peter's Church, Ilmer.

For your Prayers this month

A Prayer for our Missional Communities

Dear Lord, So many have been shown a false view of what it means to follow Christ, but we pray through Your Holy Spirit our missional work would be given the words, guidance, and access to share Your true heart and love with those they come into contact with.

May those they meet come with their honest and vulnerable hurt, experience, and perspective and be open to coming into personally knowing You, Lord God.

Amen

We give thanks for the service of dedication for the children of the Hill family.

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Adam Ankers, Peter Eacott, Patricia Wright and David Gill.

We uphold in prayer: Geoffrey and Joy John, Jenny & Fred Deverill, David Coleman, the Rolfe family, Carl State-Claridge, Jackie Powell and her daughter Lisa, Kelly May, and all those bereaved, suffering ill health or facing operations.

Please pray for:

- our missional communities, bringing God to people who don't do church
- the recruitment of a children's and families worker
- a renewed commitment to giving for God's work at St Mary's

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.

Prayers for Ukraine: are held weekly on zoom - Fridays @ 9.00am. Zoom Link - Meeting ID: 714 5146 5358 Passcode:262GY9

*Contact the Parish Office
parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk*

*Telephone: 01844
273300*