

St Mary's Monthly Message

January 2022



Photo by Tony Kerwood

A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell

Dear Church Family,

A warm welcome to you at the start of the New Year. I am looking forward to sharing our new "Core Values" card with you all in our January services or you can collect yours from the Parish Office.

As ever, the arrival of a new year brings a great opportunity to renew our faith and love for God and Jesus. It's also a wonderful time to reaffirm the joy of salvation in our hearts, as a new creation in Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Whether 2021 brought you fulfilment and joy or whether you faced grief, setbacks, and struggle, you can look ahead to 2022 with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us "for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

At the start of the year, we wait, yet again to see what the next news of the pandemic will bring. Whatever it brings, however, we have already learnt a lot in the last 2 years and as a church we will be ready to reach out again to those in our community who need our help. Our prayers remain with those who are struggling whether they are lonely or in need. May they find the encouragement and support they need to weather the storm and find a path to better days.

Happy New Year and many Blessings. David.

IN THE JANUARY ISSUE

A Note from David

*John McGinley's role
in the Church of
England*

*Welcome to Sue
Hughes*

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

Prayers for January

The Interview: John McGinley

John and Bridget McGinley joined St Marys in August after moving to the area because of a new role John has with the Church of England.

Q. John can you tell us why you chose to live in the Risborough area?

A. In my new role I need train links to London and nationally, and Bridget's parents live 15 miles away. So we looked in the area for a church which shares our values of Word and Spirit and after attending St Mary's services online we felt this was a church we could make our home in.

Q. What does your new role with the Church of England entail?

A. I was vicar of a church in Leicester where we formed missional communities and sent teams to plant churches and reach new people with the Gospel. I and some friends began to sense that God wants this work to expand across the whole of his church and so we formed Myriad. Myriad is a vision for seeing thousands of new Church of England churches planted, overseen by clergy but led mainly by lay people and it has the Archbishops' support as they have now established this as a national strategy.

Q. What are the biggest challenges you face in 2022?

A. The Church of England has been in decline for 70 years and is now facing financial crisis in many places. Leading people into new patterns of ministry and planting new churches is challenging and we have lots to learn. But I am excited that God is already doing this all over the country and we have many opportunities including setting up training centres, publishing a book of stories of churches planted by lay people and leading church planting seminar streams at Spring Harvest and New Wine this year.

Q. Can you tell us what your faith means to you?

A. Jesus is reigning in his glory and nothing is impossible for him. So faith for me is simple; I try to stay close to him, depend on his presence and power, listen to the voice of his Spirit and obey him.

A Warm Welcome to Sue Hughes

January brings exciting news of a new face at St Mary's. Sue Hughes will be joining us as an ordinand for part of her week, up until Easter. Sue and her husband Jason have been married for just over 30 years and live in Saunderton, where she grew up on a small dairy farm. They have grown up family: Caitlin who lives and works in London; and Adam who is currently volunteering in South Africa.

Sue is in her final year of ordination training with Church Mission Society, which is ministry training with particular emphasis on pioneering activities with those outside the church to connect in creative ways. She has been working with St Albans Diocese for four years, training and equipping churches and individuals to build new worshipping communities in their local contexts.

As Sue joins St Mary's, she says she is: "deeply excited about being part of the Church family as well as supporting those in the local communities to find ways of building community that is meaningful to them. I also love to encourage those around me to use their giftings to build relationships and community in both traditional church and in new ways."



*You crown
the year with
your
goodness;
your paths
overflow
with rich
food.*

PSALM 65:11



In other news...

The **first prayer meeting of the New Year** will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday January 25th on the theme of Going Deeper with God. All are invited to attend.

Alpha is coming in the new year and we will be asking our church family to prayerfully consider someone within their network of friends, family or work colleagues who they could get alongside and do Alpha with. You would watch the Alpha video in your own time and then agree a time to talk, meet up, zoom, or phone to discuss for half an hour what you have watched. This will make it more personal and, we believe, reach people from a place of trust. There will be more to follow on this in the coming weeks.

Would you be able to help with a **Parent and Toddler Group** in 2022? St Mary's is keen to bring this opportunity to the community and already has a management team for it. With a few more team members, we can make it a reality. If this is you, please contact the Parish Office.

Are you **considering confirmation**? There will be a confirmation service at St Mary's, Long Crendon on Sunday 30 January at 6:00pm. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested, and they can help arrange some preparation sessions for you.

Within the Risborough Team we are running the **Living in Love and Faith** five session course in January and February 2022 at St Dunstan's Church in Monks Risborough. The course will be facilitated by Michael Hunt, Steve and Rose Williams and will start on Tuesday 18th January 2022 and continue for the following four weeks (final session on 15th February). Each session will start at 7.30pm and will last for a maximum of two hours. The course will be held at St Dunstons, subject to possible changes in Government covid guidance or via zoom if it is not possible to meet in person. Please contact Michael Hunt (rev.mdhunt@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to find out more and to register your interest.

The annual meeting for **Lighthouse** will be on 11th January at 7.30pm, probably on Zoom. A few key people have made the decision to step down this year and so the Trustees will be looking to find a new chair and administrator amongst other key roles. The Annual Meeting is open to all and we encourage everyone with an interest in the welfare of our young people to come along to the meeting. Please pray for the future of Lighthouse at Princes Risborough and that volunteers will come forward to serve on the team.

St Peter's Ilmer needs your help. Can you help towards current urgent repairs? See St Mary's website for a giving page.
<https://www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk/2021/11/st-peters-church-ilmer-needs-your-help/>

Many thanks to Michael Hoey and Stuart Slade-Carter for their work on the church yard in the past 2 years: clearing and levelling the the perimeter bank, repairing and treating the fence, trimming the trees, removing dead trees and ivy. Sunken graves have been top dressed and trip hazards minimised. It has taken 2000 man-hours of hard labour. We wish them well as they prepare to start at the Baptist Church!

Any suggestions/additions for the newsletter would be very welcome to mrsloisefell@icloud.com. **Photos for the February edition**, please.

*Could you
help out
with a new
Parent and
Toddler
Group?
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

Now cancelled - Men's Breakfast Sat 8th January - it is hoped that Andy Kind, christian comedian, will be along later in the year.

Lighthouse meeting 11 January 7:30pm by Zoom. Contact the Parish Office for your Zoom invitation

Monthly Lunch Club – Wednesday 12 January, 10:00am to 3:00pm

CTR meeting Chapter House 19 January 7:30pm Lent, Holy Week and Easter and looking at youth provision in our town. Please pray for those involved.

CTR Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday 23 January 3:00pm at St Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough

New Year Prayer Evening - Tuesday 25th January at 7:30pm-9:00pm in Church.

Dan Beesley's licensing service at Chalfont St. Peter 27 January 7:30pm. Please pray for Dan on this important day.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

In order to keep everyone safe at this time, we ask everyone to wear masks whilst in church.

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.

Singing has resumed at this service but we ask everyone to wear a mask.

Live@St Mary's all age service continues at 11.15 both in church and live streamed to your home.

Mid week Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 10.30.

Third Sunday in the month, **Evensong at St Peter's Church, Ilmer** at 3pm (check website for variations).

For your Prayers in January

A Prayer for 2022

Dear God, Thank You for new beginnings. What an incredible day this is with a fresh year's potential stretched out before me.

I want to be found faithful this year in each and every opportunity You bring to me.

Thank You, Lord, for new beginnings. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer for our Earth

Creator God,
we praise You for water's gift of life and sustenance and growth. Help us to be worthy stewards of this great gift, to make sure that none go thirsty. Help us to safeguard its purity, accessibility and beauty.

We pray in
Jesus'
name.
Amen.

Please pray for Mandy and her family, following the death in December of Ron Ayres. Please pray too for the family of Norma Amos, whose funeral and burial will take place on 11 January at 2:30pm at St Peter's, Ilmer. And let's share the love of Christ with all this in 2022.

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 .

Prayer requests can be made via the Prayer section on the website homepage or via the Parish Office.