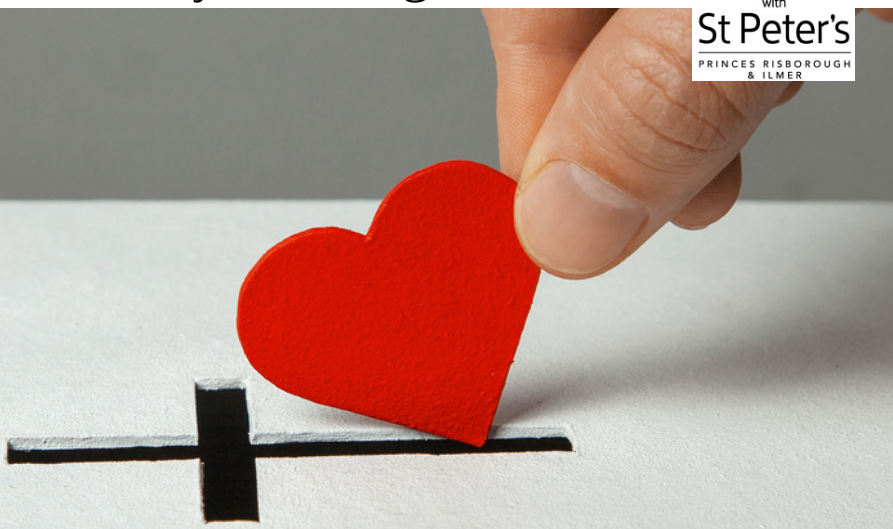


St Mary's Monthly Message

July and August 2023



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

For this summer edition of the newsletter, with holidays approaching, I thought you might appreciate reading a funny story that the evangelist J. John tells of someone who found themselves arriving in an airport in plenty of time. To pass the time, he bought himself a coffee and one of those delicious bags of hot doughnuts. He then looked around for somewhere to sit but all the tables seemed to be taken. However, there was one table he spotted, which had a man sitting at it but with an empty chair opposite him at the table. "Great", he thought, as he put his bags and coat down and sat at the table. He then began to sip his coffee and took out one of the doughnuts from the bag on the table. But as he did this, the man opposite also put his hand into the bag and took out a doughnut and started to eat it! Well, he could hardly believe what he was seeing, but he didn't want to make a scene. So, when he finished his doughnut, he pulled the bag nearer and took out another doughnut and gave the man a disapproving look. The man was clearly not put off by this, though, because he then stretched across, pulled the bag over to his side of the table, took another doughnut, and this time pushed the bag into the middle of the table. This was getting ridiculous, but he told himself to keep calm. Thankfully, after taking his second doughnut the other man got up to leave and our friend thought to himself – "about time too!" On picking up his bags, the other man then stretched across the table, saw there was only one doughnut left in the bag and so broke it in half, eating one half whilst putting the other half back in the bag. Well, by now, as you might imagine, our friend was fuming! How could the man be so rude! What was the world coming to? At that moment, he then heard over the speaker system that his plane was soon to depart, so he got up to go and picked up his bags. But when he picked up his coat, he felt something inside one of the pockets and there, to his disbelief and shame, was his bag of doughnuts!

In life, we can so easily cruise through it thinking we are in control and know best, but thankfully our Heavenly Father, who owns all the doughnuts, is full of patience, compassion, and forgiveness! Have a great summer.

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*A big welcome to
Andrew Walmsley,
our new curate*

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

*Prayers for this
month*

*Every blessing
David*

Our new Curate, Andrew Walmsley, introduces himself

I'm sure you all want to know who I am and where have I come from? I was born in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire in 1972, where I spent the first part of my life before going off to university in the mid 90's to train to teach Primary. It was at St Martins teacher training college in Lancaster that I met my wife Rachel and after university we moved down to her hometown of Milton Keynes to start our married life. While Rachel stayed in Primary teaching, I very quickly switched to Secondary to teach first ICT, then History and RE and I finished my teaching career as Head of RE. We have two children, Jack (20) who is studying History at Oxford Brookes, and Thomas (18) who hopefully will be going to university in September to study Archaeology. Sadly in 2016 Rachel became ill with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and after ten months battling this dreadful cancer she died in April 2017. From then it's just been the boys and myself, with the addition of our hyperactive dog Charlie, a cockerpoo who looks more like a spaniel and who'll be very excited if you ever visit the curate's house.

During the years in Milton Keynes we worshipped at St Mary's Bletchley, and if that name rings a bell, its because it's the church where the Taylors and the Kerrs both came from. In my years at St Mary's Bletchley I served in numerous roles, and was a Licensed Lay Minister for 10 years.

I was called by God when I was seventeen, first to teaching and then to lay ministry. Back in 2018 God called again but this time it was to full time ordained ministry and over the last two years I have trained at St Mellitus college London. This has been a wonderful experience as I have served my placement at Buckingham Parish Church and trained with some amazing people at St Mellitus. From a faith perspective I have always been a Christian as I was brought up in a Christian home and in an Anglican Church in Huddersfield. I officially gave my life to Christ when I was 12 at a Billy Graham Mission in Sheffield. Since then I have always been involved in some way in Church life in the churches where I have worshipped, specifically serving on PCC's and working with children or youth.

In 2014 the new Vicar at St Mary's Bletchley offered me the challenge of using my teaching skills to help the church develop discipleship programs and this has been a focus for my ministry since. I believe passionately that the only way we can reach out in mission and evangelism is if we are more Christlike. To do this we need to develop ourselves as disciples of Christ and to reflect this in the communities where we live. I also believe that one of the ways we can develop as disciples is to follow more closely the Church Year, and this is the focus of my Masters dissertation which I will be completing during the summer. I'm sure at some point you will hear more about that. I also believe in the importance of being able to bring others to faith, and I'm looking forward to helping us all develop at St Mary's our understanding of how we can do that. And also understand a bit more about how we can attract people to courses such as Alpha to help them explore what the Christian faith is all about.

I look forward to joining you in July as I serve as Curate at St Mary's. The visits I have had here over the last few months have highlighted to me what a wonderful place Princes Risborough is. I'm sure that God will have some new things in store, perhaps things that I have not foreseen and I am looking forward to working with all of you at St Mary's and seeing you soon.



Andrew Walmsley, new Curate at St Mary's



Jack and Thomas Walmsley with Charlie the Cockerpoo

In other news...

Many **congratulation to Sue Hughes and Andrew Walmsley** on their ordinations: Sue ordained priest on 24th June at St Mary's, Wendover, and Andrew to be ordained Deacon on 1 July at Christchurch, Oxford.

Back for another year and to celebrate the ordinations of Sue and Andrew : **the Rectory Garden Party**, 9 July, 3pm at the Rectory. All welcome, including children. Please bring a plate of food to share if you can and a garden chair or rug.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Lighthouse Quiz** at St Mary's on 24th June. Just over £1,000 was raised. Special thanks to our Quizmaster, Jamie Carter.

Godsend Course: St Mary's @The Yurt, continuing at 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, 5 July, 19 July. A 5-week introductory course exploring how to be a missional church. Details from Sue Hughes: pioneercurate@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Could you serve drinks and biscuits and chat to, and possibly pray with, teenagers as they come out of school on a Wednesday afternoon for an hour? If so, contact Lisa Dollery at **Wycombe Youth for Christ**: lisa@wycombeyfc.org.uk or speak to Louise Fell.

The next **ladies breakfast** will be on Saturday 1st July at 9am in the Church Hall. Our speakers are Denise and Chris Arthey who have an amazing story to tell of life after a major accident. Places can be booked by contacting Rose Williams 01844 274225 or sign the list in church.

The next **men's breakfast** will be on Sat 8th July at 8.45am in St Mary's Church Hall. As usual there will be a full English breakfast. Our new curate, Andrew Walmsley, will be introduced and telling us a bit about himself. The cost is £7 payable on the day. Contact Steve Williams on mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk or phone 01844 274225 if you would like to come. Male guests are very welcome.

Saying Goodbye, (part of the Mariposa Trust) are coming to Oxford in July with a very special **Baby loss remembrance and support service**. The service will be at 1pm on 8th July at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. For more details on the Saying Goodbye Charity, see <https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/>

'Tea for All' at 2.30pm on Sunday 23 July and 27 August in St Mary's Church. We are still looking for more volunteer helpers - please contact the office.

How will you respond to the four-week sermon series on giving, that culminated in John McGinley climbing the Generosity Ladder and showing us how to move to the next step in our giving? **Planned giving** is a way of giving regularly to help the Church do God's work. Please contact our Giving Secretary, Michael Hoey, if you feel ready to make the next step and help in this way: plannedgiving@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

David's Summer Pilgrimage: Walking the St Patrick's Way

David is setting out for Northern Ireland for his summer pilgrimage this year, walking in the footsteps of St Patrick. The walk begins on 7th Aug at Armagh and traverses the Mourne Mountains before dropping down to the coast. The coastal town of Newcastle is very close to where Pat & Jenni Kerr and family are now living in Bryansford and David plans to stay with them on route. The walk ends on 16th Aug in the grounds of down Cathedral Downpatrick, St Patrick's final resting place.



Sue Hughes



Rectory Garden Party 9 July



John McGinley climbing the "Generosity Ladder"

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: Wednesday 5 July and 2 August, 10:00am to 3:00pm and 5 July.

Chandos Ensemble Concert, Sat 8 July, 7.30pm, St Dunstan's Church, £10

Rectory Garden Party: Sunday 9 July 3-5pm.

Bereavement Drop-in: 3:00pm 10 July and 14 August in the Chapter House.

Godsend: continues on 5 and 19 July, 7.30-9.30pm at the Yurt.

Tea for All: Sunday 23 July, and 27 August, 2.30pm in church.

Lighthouse Commissioning Service: Sun 30 July, 6pm, PR School

Lighthouse Week: Mon 31st July to Fri 4 August, PR School

Local Pilgrimage Walk: Saturday 26 Aug - a walk for everyone around PR with David.

More details to follow.

Play Cafe: every Tuesday during term time from 9.30am to 11am in church.

Youth Drop-in: at Baptist Lower Hall Thursdays in term time 5:30-7:00pm.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

Holy Communion at 8am (*said*)

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 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.

3rd Sunday in the month (16th July & 20th August) at 6pm, **Evensong & shortened HC, St Peter's Church, Ilmer.**

For your Prayers this month

A Prayer for our Clergy

Lord Jesus,
hear our humble prayers on behalf of our
clergy, at this time of exciting change.
Give them a deep faith,
a bright and firm hope,
and a burning love
which will ever increase in the course
of their priestly life.

Amen.

A Prayer for Generous Giving

God of abundance,
the author and giver of all good things,
grant us a gracious and humble heart,
that we may give you glory
through offering
the First Fruits of our lives,
and grow more into the likeness
of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Derek White, Patricia Axford, John Coombs and Edward Ashby.

We uphold in prayer: Adrian & Mel Rolfe, Nancy & David Wallace, David Coleman, the Drewett family and all those known to us who are ill or recovering from treatment.

Please pray for:

- Andrew Walmsley, as he joins St Mary's this month
- Nicci Maxwell as she returns to the UK
- Our Ugandan visitors from Madi and West Nile Diocese on 24/25 July
- The young people in our town as they embark on their well-deserved summer break and the WYFC Team with their outreach in Princes Risborough
- The organisers, volunteers and young people attending Lighthouse this year
- David Williams as he undertakes his summer pilgrimage on St Patricks Way and for the Kerr family in Northern Ireland
- Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy, Street Angels and the Healing on the Streets Team

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*