

St Mary's Monthly Message

July and August 2022



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

Lighthouse, our largest children's event of the year is only four weeks away as I write this, which can only mean one thing - summer's coming! May I wish God's blessing upon those who will be travelling and a warm welcome to those who are visiting us during this holiday time.

Holidays can be such a 'God-send', can't they, but I wonder what you most value in a holiday? I came across these words the other day: 'Escape from the rush. Take a plane or drive to the beach. Slap on the sun cream, adjust the sunglasses and bake for a few hours. Remove from hot oven two weeks later and return to crazy lifestyle, running to keep up with everyone else on the treadmill!' What are we living for? As I am preparing for this year's pilgrimage (walking from Edinburgh to Holy Island, Lindisfarne) and with thoughts of what it will be like spending a weekend on the island, the imagery of the sea and tides ebbing and flowing comes to mind. As we give out, so we must receive. Just as Moses met with God through the burning bush in the wilderness, or Paul on the road to Emmaus, Jesus lived a life of balance, knowing the importance of spending time apart, being restored and renewed. May God bless you richly this summer!

Many Blessings, David.

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The Interview: Elaine Needham

Elaine Needham has lived in Risborough for 34 years with her husband Joe. They have 3 grown-up children and 2 grandchildren with another one due in October. She trained as a nursery nurse and has always worked with children from new-born to 11 years of age. She is soon to take up post as a governor at Longwick CoE Combined School.

Q. Can you tell us about your role at Longwick School?

A. For the last 17 years of my working life I worked as a teaching assistant at Princes Risborough primary school. I'm passionate about children being able to access the curriculum whatever their ability and these days supporting their mental health. So many children go to school with so much 'baggage', that they're unable to fulfil their potential. When I heard that Longwick School were looking for a Foundation Governor (someone who is an active St Mary's church member interested in education and school life) I decided to apply. One part of my role will be supporting the RE and Personal, Health and Social education (PHSE) curriculums.

Q. What else keeps you busy?

A. At St Mary's I'm involved in all aspects of the children's work and am one of the leads for lunch club. I attended Refresh for many years, who were an amazing support when I was going through my cancer treatment. I also volunteer at the Rennie Grove charity shop, I do secretarial work for the Karibuni charity based in Stoke Mandeville and I also support Rev Dan and Paula Beasley by going to Chalfont St Giles twice a week to pick up Eloisa from school. Eloisa was 6 weeks old when the family arrived in Risborough, she is now 7 and we have built up a very special relationship. So no time to be bored!

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

A. I've been attending St Mary's for the last 12 years and my faith has grown and developed greatly due to being with such a caring, knowledgeable family and I'm sure this will help me be a loyal, professional and caring Governor. I look forward to telling you more about my role later in the year.

Eleyna Kibble tells us about Lighthouse

There is much excitement about the return of Lighthouse at the end of July, after a two-year break for the pandemic. Lighthouse, a Christian holiday club, gets the summer holidays off to a great start for children and the young people who volunteer. I caught up with vice chair Eleyna Kibble and asked her about her involvement in Lighthouse: "I grew up in Lighthouse," she told me, "I love the difference it makes both to children and to the young volunteers."

Eleyna is 22 years old and displays huge drive and determination. She has just completed a four-year course in Biochemistry at Nottingham University and is looking forward to a career in research into regenerative medicine. On the day I met her she had just learned that she'd won a first class degree. She grew up in a Christian family and felt able to develop her own relationship with God from age 15. She is involved in her own church, Cornerstone Thame, as a member of the worship team. She sees her involvement with Lighthouse in the long term.

I asked if she could give us some clues about this year's Lighthouse: "After a two year break, we will be celebrating being *Together Again* and looking at how individual gifts make the body of Christ," she said, "we will focus on using our gifts for God's work for the children as well as the youth volunteers". We wish Eleyna every success!



"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

PSALM 62:1-2



Eleyna Kibble

In other news...

There will be a welcome **garden party at the Rectory** on 3rd July at 3pm for everyone and to celebrate Sue Hughes' ordination. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a plate of food to share and garden chairs or a picnic rug if you are able.

Alpha in the Yurt: If you would still like to join the group hosted by Sue Hughes at Church Farm, Upper Icknield Way, Saunderton, contact: susan.hughes24@googlemail.com. Enjoy discussion, exploring life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Vision and Praise evening with Wycombe Youth for Christ 7:30pm on 7 July at the Baptist Church, Princes Risborough. An opportunity to meet the Team, hear about highlights over the last 12 months and look ahead to the future.

Following John McGinley's sermon on **healing** he will be offering a **training evening** on Thursday July 14th in the Chapter House at 7.30pm. This will give principles of the healing ministry and a model to use. And then he will then arrange a date for anyone to go out onto the streets of Risborough to pray for people (coming to the training does not commit you to the street ministry!). If you are planning to attend please email John at john.mcginley@ccx.org.uk but you can just turn up on that evening. It's going to be fun!

Mark Drewett is undertaking a huge challenge in July. He is cycling from **Lands End to John O'Groats in 10 days for the charity Young Minds**. Then in October he is running the London Marathon. Please sponsor him if you can and help him raise money for this great charity. Full details can be found here: <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/markdrewett>

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

There will be a **Memorial Service for Di Home** on Tuesday 12 July at 2:00pm in St Mary's Church. The funeral service for **Iris Austin** is on Friday 15th July, 12 noon at St Mary's Church.

Our local day care centre, **the Princes Centre celebrates its 10th Anniversary** this month. We send our warmest congratulations to the award-winning team that makes the centre very special.

Lighthouse is open for business! If you would like to **volunteer at Lighthouse** this year (25-29 July), or register your child(ren) you can do so via the website: lighthousecentral.org/lighthouses/princes-risborough/

Risborough summer festival: there will be free concerts open to all in church on the following days: Monday July 4th at 12.30pm - Longwick School; Wednesday July 6th at 12.30pm - Monks Risborough School; Friday July 6th at 10.30am - Jingers choir and friends with coffee & refreshments served.

David will be undertaking a pilgrimage from 7-16 August, following **St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to Holy Island**. Beautiful scenery, quiet contemplation and a lot of fun. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested in joining the walk or meeting David and friends at the end of his journey on Holy Island.

The Diocese of Oxford has been given a **bronze EcoDiocese award**, and has fully divested from fossil fuels. It has set aside £10M for retrofit of vicarages to reduce their carbon footprint. View the link below to read more about these initiatives: (<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change>)

*Are you
inspired by
the service
of others
to
volunteer
your gifts
at St
Mary's?*

*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

Rectory Garden Party 3:00pm Sun 3 July. Please bring a plate of food. All welcome.

Youth Vision & Praise Evening, 7 July, 7:30pm Princes Risborough Baptist Church.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 9 July, 8:45am in the Church Hall with John McGinley.

Unplugged: Sunday 10th July, 6.30pm in Church, an extended time of worship in song & prayer with a brief talk by Pat Kerr.

Bereavement Drop In Group: Mon 11 July and 8 August 3:00pm in the Chapter House.

Monthly Lunch Club: Weds, 13 July and 3 August 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Healing Ministry Training: Thurs 14th July in the Chapter House with John McGinley

Icknield Court Service: Sunday 17th July, 2.30pm with Revd Janet Henderson

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

Ladies' Breakfast: Saturday 23rd July, 9am in the Church. Contact Rose Williams.

Lighthouse: 25th-29th July. Volunteers still needed to help on site.

This Year's Pilgrimage: St Cuthbert's Way 7-16 August. Contact the Office.

Floodlighting

Please send your requests for floodlighting to the Parish Office - £5 per evening.

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 Jenni Kerr at childrensworker@stmarysrisborough.org.uk for further info on sessions.

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

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

For your Prayers this month

Prayer for the Summer Holidays

We pray that
children and young people will enjoy
the blessings of the summer holiday.
Let this break be one that is productive
for children, young people, teachers
and parents. We pray that during this
summer holiday, the plan for our young
people will be established for Your
Kingdom and for Your purpose,
Amen.

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 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.

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Diana Home, Iris Austin, William McCorkell, William Lucas, Frank Chapman.

We send our best wishes to Jessica Nelson and David Salisbury for their forthcoming wedding.

We give thanks for the Baptism of Esme Davis and Thanksgiving service for Jackson Enticknap.

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.

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

*Telephone: 01844
273300*