

St Mary's Monthly Message

June 2022



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell

Dear Church Family,

With June comes the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and, as we give thanks for our Queen and enjoy gathering for our community events, I would like to take this opportunity to say a brief word about 'service' and our servant Queen who serves our servant King, Jesus.

Firstly, how wonderful to be celebrating and giving thanks for our longest-ever serving monarch! From her speech when she was 21 years old, where she said, "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and...God help me make good my vow" to her statement that went out on 6th February this year, on the 70th anniversary of her accession, where she signed it simply, 'Your servant, Elizabeth', what an example our Queen has given. In contrast to the prevalent message in society that says the most important person in the world is 'me' and its all about looking after Number One and what I want and need, how refreshing to have this emphasis on caring for others and loving God. There is a delightful story told of two influential men, George Bernard Shaw, the playwright, and Winston Churchill. Shaw sent Churchill two tickets to the opening night of one of his plays with the instruction to 'bring a friend - if you have one'. And not to be outdone, Churchill replied, 'Sorry, I am busy on that night, but I will come on the second night - if there is one'! We can be so full of ourselves that we miss out on the joys of serving others. May we follow Jesus' example who came "not to be served but to serve". Jesus was prepared to wash the feet of his disciples and lay down his life for others, and his example has inspired our Queen throughout her life. May we, too, be inspired to be a blessing to others as we are blessed!

Many Blessings, David.

IN THE JUNE ISSUE

A Note from David

*The Interview:
Debby and Jim
Cadwallader talk
about life and
service at St Mary's*

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

*Prayers for this
month*

The Interview: Debby and Jim Cadwallader

Q. Tell us a bit about yourselves and when you first came to St Mary's

A. We came to Risborough in 1982 and have worshipped at St Mary's ever since. Soon after we arrived, Barrie Priestley visited us and within a year he had persuaded Jim to join the PCC and Stewardship Committee and one or both of us have been on the PCC more or less ever since, nearly 40 years!

When we arrived the congregation at St Mary's was so welcoming to us and our 3 noisy young children! Debby volunteered to help Cheryl Clark with the Sunday School, which she did for 12 years. Jim looked after Covenants (now Gift Aid) also for 12 years – that's barely half as long as Michael Hoey has now been doing it! Jim also chaired the Fundraising Panel for 'The Church Project' (the interior was renewed to meet the needs of today's community), was later PCC Secretary and then Churchwarden for a couple of years. Debby was Churchwarden for the maximum 6 years, including interviewing David for the post of Rector. She has chaired the Stewardship and Ministry Groups and served for a long time on the Deanery Synod – one of the unsung backwaters of C of E governance which is important but seldom exciting! She has also served as a governor at our church school, Longwick, since 1993.

We are now both retired, Debby from teaching and Jim from the Foreign Office. We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, spread between Somerset, Oxfordshire and Spain.

Q. Can you tell us about some changes you have been involved in?

A. You may think that the Church Project would be the biggest change, and, of course, it is having a huge impact, but we believe the biggest change followed a visit by the Oxford Diocesan Stewardship Advisor in the late 80s to our Stewardship Committee. The half dozen at the meeting felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in the room. We were inspired to persuade the PCC that St Mary's should, as a body, not just individuals, commit to supporting those in need. This led to the pledge to give 20% of St Mary's annual income to charities, and, we believe, it has embedded in St Mary's the culture of generosity which enabled us to do the Project and manage through Covid. We are still seeing the fruits of the Church Project each week. We both feel privileged to have helped, but the greatest thanks go to God, who gave us the means and the leadership of Peter Knight and many others, some no longer with us, who worked so hard to bring it about. The Fundraising Panel raised £1.4M, mostly from the congregation. People were so generous with their support, but Jim is greatly relieved not to have to ask people to give money any more!

Q. What has your faith and being part of the St Mary's family meant for you?

A. We were both brought up in the faith from childhood: it is the centre of our lives. We believe that one of the many strengths of St Mary's is that we try to meet the needs of the whole community, young and old, traditional and modern, churchgoers or not. Long may we maintain the breadth of what we do.

As some will know, we have both had serious health problems in recent years, Debby in neuro ICU with meningitis in 2017, Jim in ITU after open heart surgery in 2020. Prayer and support from the whole St Mary's family sustained us through this difficult time.

Many in the St Mary's family are among our closest friends. We value those friendships greatly, and above all we thank God for his untold blessings.



"Each one should use whatever gift he has received, to serve others faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 PETER 4:10

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

Lizzie Thomas-Davies is coordinating **support for Ukrainian refugees** in Lacey Green. She needs homes for 2 large families and a smaller one - please email her at lizbags@aol.com if you are able to help.

Risborough will be celebrating the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** in style with the lighting of a beacon at 9pm on Whiteleaf Hill, Thursday 2 June and a Big Jubilee Picnic lunch in Wades Park on Sunday 5 June.

Alpha in the Yurt starts Wednesday June 8th at 7.30pm in the Yurt at Church Farm, Upper Icknield Way hosted by Sue Hughes. Enjoy a meal, conversation and discussion, exploring life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. susan.hughes24@googlemail.com.

We are in need of an enthusiastic and active '**Eco-Champion**' to help progress our church in this area. If you feel you could take this activity forward, please contact the church office, or Garth Wilkinson on 07788 694544.

Live@St Mary's will not be live-streamed after the end of June. If you are affected by this change, contact the Parish Office where we are compiling a range of exciting alternatives that might be helpful. Parish Communion at 9:30am on Sundays will continue to be live streamed.

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/

The Children's Society Coffee Morning in Longwick raised £539.79 which included generous donations. Thank you for your support.

Thy Kingdom Come - the global wave of prayer - continues to 5th June. Visit the website to sign up for the App which provides daily prayer resources: www.thykingdomcome

Do you enjoy working outside in beautiful surroundings? And meeting people? if so, **the churchyard** is in need of people who can mow and help in other ways. Contact the Parish Office if you can help.

Coffee and a smile: St Mary's loves to provide a warm welcome to our services and serving coffee is a great way to get to know people. If you'd like to discover your inner barista (!) please send an email to the office or speak to Bekah Diprose in church. Thank you.

The Lighthouse Quiz will take place on Saturday 11th June, at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church. £5 per head, please make up 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.

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

*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

Monthly Lunch Club: Weds 8 June, 10:00am to 3:00pm

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

Services at Icknield Court led by Janet Henderson: Sun 12 June at 2.30pm.

Ilmer Evensong including shortened HC: St Peter's, Sun 19 June at 6pm

Bereavement Drop In Group: Mon 13 June 3:00pm in the Chapter House

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

Men's Breakfast Saturday 9 July from 8:45am.

Floodlighting

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

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

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.

Holy Communion at 8am (*in church only*)

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 (until end June). 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 Thursdays at 10.30.

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 Hearts to Serve

God of mercy,
unite your Church in the Holy Spirit
that we may serve you with all our
hearts
and work together with unselfish love.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
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 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.

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Christine
Stallwood, Leonard Blake and Gordon Todd
We send our best wishes to Luke Croucher and Danielle Newton, and Oliver Heath
and Georgina Oates on their weddings.
We give thanks for the Baptisms of Harper Louise Gardiner.

*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*