

St Mary's Monthly Message



May 2024



A Note From David

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell
mrsloisefell@icloud.com

BY THE RECTOR

As we approach 6th June and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when we will be holding a town Beacon Lighting Ceremony, there is a 2nd World War story that I would like to share with you that happened in May 1940. With echoes of the miracle of the biblical Exodus, with the English Channel replacing the Red Sea, a 'miracle' happened as our troops were surrounded at Dunkirk by Hitler's army on the one side and the sea on the other. Along with soldiers of other Allied nations, they were outmanoeuvred and unprepared, and our then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, found himself preparing to announce to the public an unprecedented military catastrophe with well over 300,000 troops stranded. But it didn't happen.

Instead, on 23rd May, King George VI requested that the following Sunday needed to be a National Day of Prayer and many in our nation devoted themselves to prayer in an unprecedented way. Eyewitnesses and photographs confirm overflowing congregations across the nation and long queues formed outside cathedrals. The same day an urgent request went out for boats of all sizes to cross the Channel and rescue those stranded. General Brook, the British Corps Commander wrote in his diary, 'Nothing but a miracle can save us now' and at least three miracles then happened. Firstly, Hitler overruled his generals and stopped the advance of his troops (which infuriated his generals and still baffles historians). Secondly, violent storms erupted that grounded the Luftwaffe and enabled ground troops to make their way safely to the beaches. Thirdly, despite the storms, the sea remained unnaturally calm, enabling ships to make repeated trips back and forth, rescuing 338,000 troops. According to Churchill, it was a 'miracle of deliverance'. We may live in a sceptical world, but I have found over the years that however great our problems, God is greater!

Every blessing, David

What's inside?

*Susannah Penney
on faith, farming
and family*

*Sue Hughes: the
Maker & Fixer
Missional
Community*

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

*Prayers for this
month*

Susannah Penney: Faith, Farming and Family

Susannah has been married to Adam for 9 years and they have a son Jacob, who is nearly a year old. Susannah grew up on the family dairy farm in Bledlow, so she attended St Mary's church all through her childhood. After a short time teaching Animal Science, Susannah started working full time on dairy farms, and now runs the family dairy farm with Adam and her parents. On her days off with Jacob, Susannah spends her time playing, or visiting friends for more playing because Jacob is a very active little boy!

Susannah's work day usually starts at 7am. She is responsible for the health and welfare of all 650 animals on the farm. There are different jobs at different times of year, but she might be feeding calves, preparing the fields for grazing, treating any cows that are sick, monitoring the calving cows, cutting the cows toenails, administering vaccinations, or helping cows get pregnant! She also looks after all the staff that work on the farm too.

After they got married Susannah and Adam worked on a dairy farm in New Zealand for a year. The cows were outside all year, so they also worked outside in the snow and rain (or sunshine), but they just had to invest in some good wet weather gear. They loved it in New Zealand, mostly due to the friends they made at the local Presbyterian church a lot of whom were also farmers.

Susannah cannot remember a time she didn't believe in God. She chose to get baptised at 11 and was supported in her faith journey by an excellent youth group run by the Uptons. Susannah describes her faith as 'very strong, and an intrinsic part of me that is difficult to describe.' Since doing a course about spiritual gifts she has come to understand that her spiritual gift is Faith, but that's doesn't always mean she knows quite how she can use her spiritual gift for the benefit of the church!

Sue Hughes: The Maker & Fixer Missional Community

The scripture here, from Isaiah, has been a word that God has been teaching us over this past couple of years, to learn to trust His calling upon us to reach people in our communities who do not yet come to church and who would not attend a normal Sunday service. We have learnt to pray and dream for what we could not yet see!

We were therefore delighted as a Yurt Community to start a new missional community called "Maker & Fixer" which has come from prayer, relationship building and discernment amongst a repair barn community and a Ukrainian community. The Maker & Fixer Missional Community vision is to: *"Create belonging, confidence, and community collaboration at the Culverton Barns using sustainability and 'maker & fixer' skills to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom"*

Building on the work of yurt members, Hugh & Lizzie Thomas Davies, loving, serving, and building community at the repair barn, the opportunity is to engage with families and individuals of all ages and to offer activities that can be undertaken together, making simple things, or doing basic repairs to common items. Integral to each session is reflecting on those activities as a parallel story of humans as spiritual beings, made in the image of God, yet often in need to repair, restoration and to be made new!

Theologically, there are very strong links with the Mission of God, who comes to set us free, repair and restore us by his Holy Spirit and in encounter with Jesus Christ. We had a trial session on the 21 April with 12 guests, who joined us for scripture, repair and prayer around the idea of God growing hope within each of us. We made planters from old wooden pallets and recycled and painted plant pots to compost and sow sunflower seeds. Our launch will be on Sunday 19 May and thereafter runs every third Sunday of the month, 3pm to 5pm.



Susannah Penney with Adam and Jacob



Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19



Living God
Where there is waste, let us bring recycling
Where there is recycling, let us bring reuse
Where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability
Where there is sustainability, let us bring justice
Where there is justice, let us bring love.
Amen.

In other news...

Do you know someone who would be interested in our exciting vacancy for a **Children's and Families Worker**? Or could it be you? Contact the Parish Office for more information or see the website for an application form.

Coffee morning in aid of the Children's Society, Friday 10 May, 10.30am to 12 noon. Diana Parker invites you to join her for a fund-raising morning in aid of the Children's Society. Coffee & scone: £2, and there will also be a raffle and a bring & buy stall. All welcome to Hazel Trees, 12 Bell Crescent, Longwick.

Peter & Patricia Wyard are pleased to invite you to their talk **'Back to Congo'** in the Chapter House on **Saturday 11 May** at 7.30pm. They will talk about their recent mission trip to Eastern DR Congo, where they served for 5 years as CMS mission partners. Amidst the poverty and conflict God is at work, building His church. Peter is a pastor and theologian, and Patricia is a palliative care doctor.

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. More info from: chilternarts.com.

'Twenty-four weddings and a funeral' by Tony Bundock on **Sat 18 May**, 4pm at St John's Church, Lacey Green. Tony recalls his more colourful memories of weddings he has conducted over the years. The St John's choir present a selection of musical items after the light refreshments interval. Tickets £10, tel: 01844 347741 or email: stjohnschurchlaceygreen@gmail.com.

Live Jazz at St Dunstan's on Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm. Acclaimed jazz recording artist Tim Boniface performs a wonderful setlist of familiar songs and tunes you'll love, accompanied by St Dunstan's Vicar Peter Godden as vocalist, and Chris Diamand on double bass. Tickets £10 from 'Days to Remember' on the High St.

Could you help out with **cleaning the church**? There are different jobs to suit everyone. Speak to the Parish Office or Heather Hardy - sign up 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 during term time. 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: '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.

St Andrews Literature Festival, celebrating the best of Christian Literature, is being held in Great Missenden over the weekend of 21-22 June. Book your tickets at: www.stalitfest.co.uk.



Children's and Families
Worker recruitment



Chiltern Arts Festival



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 1 May, 10am-3pm in the Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre
Ladies' Breakfast with Sir David Lidington, 9.00am Sat 4th May in the Church Hall
Men's Breakfast with David Williams, Sat 11th May, 8.45 -10.30am Church Hall
Back to Congo, with Peter & Patricia Wyard, Sat 11th May, 7.30pm, Chapter House
Chiltern Arts Concert, Sun 12th May, 7.30pm in church
Bereavement Drop-in Group in the Chapter House, 3pm 13th May
Messy Church, Sun 19th May, 3.15pm in church
Tea for All in the Chapter House, 2.30pm on 26 May
Confirmation Service, Sun 26 May, 6pm in church
Prayers at the Yurt: Mon & Fri mornings , 7.30am to 8pm
Youth Cafe: Mondays during term time from 3-4.30pm, Crew Cafe
Play Cafe: Tuesdays during term time from 9.30am to 11am in church

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 (19 May) at 6pm, Evensong & shortened HC
St Peter's Church, Ilmer.

For your Prayers this month

A Prayer for our Children's Work

Heavenly Father, thank You for providing a team with strong faith to reach the hearts of our children as they seek direction and purpose. May children recognise Your power in their lives and choose to follow You like the first disciples did.

Amen

A Prayer for our Mission

Father, you invite each of us to share in the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit to form us as a missionary disciple. Teach us how to hear Jesus, to love Jesus, and to share your love with everyone we meet.

Amen

We pray for those being baptised : Cole Johnstone & Brianna Watters.
We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Alice Burton, Malcolm Cloutt and Louis Hugall.

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:

- the Maker & Fixer missional community, launching 19 May
- the recruitment of a children's and families worker
- a renewed commitment to giving for God's work at St Mary's

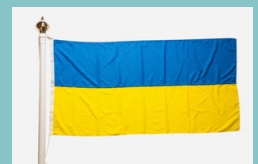
Copies of this newsletter are available in Church for you to collect and pass on to friends and neighbours.



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

Tel: 01844 273300