

St Mary's Monthly Message

November 2022



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, a verse that comes to mind is from John's Gospel chapter 16, where we read Jesus' words: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world". With uncertainties around the world, we also know, through our personal lives, that we all experience suffering as well as joy in our life. Circumstances invade uninvited, and often unwelcome. As we remember those who have gone before us in the service of others, peace and justice, may we lift our eyes to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Difficult experiences do test faith and can create rocks on which our faith may become shipwrecked for a season. The good news, though, is that God is always faithful, and the Holy Spirit is always with us. God doesn't abandon us. We may find it difficult to discern God at times, but if we persevere, we will find Jesus. Like the sun behind a cloud, he is always with us; we just can't sometimes see Him through the challenges, external and internal, that we face. May God bless us in the days ahead as we are resolved to walk in the paths of peace and justice.

Many Blessings, David.

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IN THIS ISSUE ISSUE

A Note from David

*The Interview:
Chris McGough*

*St Mary's
presents...an
evening of fun and
laughter with Steve
Legg*

In Other News...

*Dates for your Diary
Prayers for this
month*

The Interview: Chris McGough

Chris McGough joined St Mary's in 2019, and became a member of PCC in April this year. He is an electronics engineer and worked in the Telecoms sector across five decades. He has run businesses and sold one, then having the opportunity to sit on the board of the larger acquiring company. He played a key role in setting up and running the Food Cupboard during the pandemic and he is currently helping out with discipleship and walking alongside the "Yurties" (the discipleship group that meets in Sue Hughes' yurt).

Q. Chris, you've been on PCC for a few months now. What are your first impressions?

A. I was initially astonished at the level of professionalism, the expertise and the knowledge that resides within PCC. I'd come across some members, like Debby (Cadwallader) before through school and found her to be very gifted and I've discovered this to be the case across the PCC membership. We work on a number of significant areas and I'm very pleased to be part of this skilled and faithful group.

Q. What particular skills do you hope to bring to PCC?

A. I have practical financial, business and investment skills that I hope will benefit the financial side, at the same time as bringing my faith. I feel it is a great time to be involved with St Mary's as we examine what God will be doing next in our church and community.

Q. Can you tell us about your faith?

A. I came to faith at Easter 2019 and felt as though God had shaken me by the shoulders. I was aware of the Alpha course running at St Mary's and watched some videos, read Lee Strobel's "The Case for Christ" which "gave me permission" to seek His presence. I then read the Gospels while I was on holiday in Vietnam. Finally, while in Hoi An, I prayed a prayer of acceptance at around 4pm one afternoon. I fell asleep and when I woke up an hour later I knew my life had changed. I felt different.

St Mary's Presents... Steve Legg

For the first time, St Mary's will be holding a fabulous evening of comedy, magic and mind-reading. The event, featuring Steve Legg will take place at 7.15pm, on 11 November in church.

Steve is a Christian and his live presentations are entertaining, intriguing and inoffensive. He has worked everywhere from Morecambe to Mexico City, Bournemouth to Buenos Aires, and always leaves people amazed and amused. The focus is very much on comedy and audience participation. You'll find the laughs come thick and fast - and just when you least expect it, he hits you between the eyes with yet another magical miracle.

Pete Wynn, who has seen Steve perform, has organised this treat for us all and says: "You'll be entertained and inspired by Steve. He's hilarious and can hold an audience in the palm of his hand!"

Using a unique blend of comedy and sleight of hand Steve manages to combine silly props, audience involvement and baffling world class tricks to give a great entertainment experience.

This occasion is an opportunity for us all to invite friends and family to a fun event in church. It will be suitable for all ages including children (provided they are old enough to stay out until 9pm).

Tickets are priced at £5 per person and £15 for a family/friends group of 2 adults and 2 children. Contact Pete Wynn: peterwynnis@btinternet.com or 07515 956182



Chris McGough with daughter, Zeva

*"He will yet fill
your mouth with
laughter, and
your lips with
shouting."*

JOB 8:21



In other news...

Thanks to all those who attended **the prayer evening for Mary**.

Please remember Pat, Jenni, Ezra and Phoebe in your prayers as they settle into their new home in Bryansford, County Down. Pat's Licensing Service at Castlewellan Church is on Wednesday 16th November at 7pm.

The final whole **Church Prayer meeting** of the year concludes our reflections on the core values of St Mary's: 'Empowered by the Spirit' led by Jo Williams and Averil Stephenson will be in Church on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm.

The **Ladies Breakfast** will be on on Saturday 5th Nov, 9am with Joyce Wooster and the wonderful Banjovi band performing gospel songs & spirituals. Please sign the sheet in church or contact Rose if you would like to attend so that she knows numbers for catering rosewilliamsdp@yahoo.co.uk or 01844 274225.

Steve Legg will be giving a talk at the **Men's Breakfast** the morning after his event in church, Sat 12th November at 9am in the Church Hall . Contact Steve Williams to book your place.

We are pleased to announce we will be having another marvellous coffee morning concert with Michael Pegram's **Concert Band on Friday 25th November at 10.30am**. If you have been before you will know that we will be enjoying a range of music including seasonal favourites from this talented group of local performers. Refreshments will be served during the concert - please contact the Parish Office if you can supply homemade cakes, biscuits or mince pies. Thank you!

WYFC are running a weekly youth drop-in cafe at the Baptist Church as well as being involved with our local schools in mentoring projects and assemblies. Members of St Mary's are volunteering at the drop-in and you have the chance to meet Lisa Dollery and the team at their **Christmas Open Evening** here at St Mary's on Tues 29th Nov at 7pm. There will be festive refreshments and a relaxed atmosphere in which to hear more about the wonderful work happening with our young people. All are invited - your prayers of support and donations are always welcome to ensure this valuable Ministry continues in our community.

Please join members of **Churches Together in Risborough** for an Advent service in the Baptist Church on Sunday 27th Nov at 6pm. Look out for the CTR stall at the switching on of the Christmas Lights event on the High Street, Sat 26th 3-6pm.

The wonderful **Jinglers Choir** will be singing for us at a coffee morning in St Mary's Church on Friday 2nd December at 10.30am. Donations to the Princes Centre.

Abbeyfield Home opposite the Church welcomes older people to join them for a cuppa and a chat whenever you are **feeling lonely and would like some company**. No need to book, just knock on the door and say you are calling in for a coffee / tea or call Caroline on 01844 342329.

We will be launching a monthly **Sunday Afternoon Tea** on November 27th, open to anyone who would like company on a Sunday afternoon. It will run on the 4th Sunday afternoon every month.



Breakfast



Concert Band

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!



Afternoon tea

Dates for your Diary

Time to Remember Service: Sun 30th October at 3pm in Church

Monthly Lunch Club: Weds, 2 November 10:00am to 3:00pm

Ladies Breakfast: Sat 5th Nov, 9am with Joyce Wooster & Banjovi

Bucks Historic Churches Annual Lecture: given by David Lidington on Weds 9th Nov, 6.30pm in Church

Deanery Synod at St Mary's Church, Thurs 10th at 8pm

Men's Breakfast with Steve Legg Sat 12th November at 9am in the Church Hall.

Bereavement Drop In Group: Mon 14 November 3:00pm in the Chapter House

Pat Kerr's Licensing Service in Castlewellan, N. Ireland: Weds 16th Nov at 7pm

Messy Thanksgiving: Sunday 20th at 3.15pm in church - sign up on Eventbrite

Prayer Meeting in church: 'Empowered by the Spirit', Tues 22nd Nov at 7.30pm

Switching on of PR Town Christmas Lights: CTR Stall on the High Street, Sat 26th November, 3-6pm

CTR Advent Service: Sunday 27th Nov at 6pm, PR Baptist Church

WYFC Christmas Open Evening at St Mary's Church, Tuesday 29th Nov at 7pm

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

Play Cafe: every Tuesday 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 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

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: this month at 3pm on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November.

For your Prayers this month

Prayer for Service

Father, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration,
and continue with your help.

Let our work always find its origin in
you,

and through you reach completion.

We ask 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 Peace

Most holy God and Father,

hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.

Help us, who today remember the cost of
war,

to work for a better tomorrow;

and, as we commend to you lives lost in
terror and conflict,

bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your
presence;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Joan Collins, Olive Collins, Gillian Rankin and Doris Hodge.

We give thanks for the Baptism of Albert Hamer, Aurelia Walker-Jones and Darren.

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 @ 9.30am. Zoom Link - Meeting ID: 714 5146 5358 Passcode:262GY9

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

Telephone: 01844 273300