

St Mary's Monthly Message

October 2021



Pyrtle Springs: photo by Louise Fell



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell

A warm welcome to the Harvest edition of the newsletter.

Harvest is a time when we reflect on God's goodness as our creator and on the blessings that our farms and gardens bring, bearing the fruit that will sustain us over the winter months until the weather improves the following year and we can begin the cycle again. This year, we consider too how precious our environment is, and the threats that climate change brings.

In response to the challenges that our world now faces, the leadership team at St Mary's has publicly declared the emergency, joining other churches who are working alongside Tearfund in shining a spotlight on the crisis, underlining its seriousness and the need for world leaders to agree to significant progress during the talks. We also work alongside the Town Council and our Community in their efforts to bring about positive change for our environment.

In the last year we have become aware also of the personal challenges faced by many local families and households in having enough food to put on their tables every day. As a church we have worked with the community to come alongside these families through our food bank, and we continue to do so.

I know that many of you work tirelessly to turnaround the injustices of climate change and food poverty, and, whilst we know there will always be more to do, I thank everyone for their involvement in these significant issues.

Finally, I look forward to sharing Harvest Lunch with you, details in the Diary section.

Blessings, David.

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

A Note from David

Neil Dyson talks
about Fitbits for
cows

Garth Wilkinson on
climate change

In other news... &
Dates for your Diary

Prayers for October

The Interview: Neil Dyson



Neil and Jane Dyson are dairy farmers, based at Holly Green Farm in Bledlow, a farm that has been in Jane's family for over a century. The farm has a herd of 450 Holstein cows, each producing an average of 9,000 litres of milk a year.

Q Neil, I read recently in The Times that you are doing some innovative work with your dairy herd. Can you tell us about that?

A We're participating in a study to see how happy cows are when they are kept in sheds. All cows are kept in sheds for some time in their life, particularly during the Winter months. This study is to help the industry understand more about what makes a cow content and if we can do anything to improve her well being.

Q You're fitting the cows with activity trackers?

A Yes, using these trackers which monitor their activity and location in the sheds, we can follow the cows' behaviours like how much time they spend eating and lying down, and even whether they hang out with their friends.

Q As well as being a farmer you are also a teacher. Do you teach about what happens on a farm?

A I am involved in a project to produce fun activity sheets and videos to entertain and help children locally and around the UK to learn more about their food: Why do we need a healthy breakfast? Where does our food come from? What farmers are doing for the wildlife and environment around them.

Q What is the role of faith in your work?

A It's a privilege to work in the countryside and with animals, seeing God's creation in action and our beautiful world every day.

Climate Change Sunday

BY GARTH WILKINSON

Following the recent IPCC climate change report giving a "code red warning for humanity", it is important to think about what St Mary's can do as a parish church. On Sunday 7th Nov our Sunday morning services will be using resources from Tearfund highlighting issues which will be discussed at the Cop26 World Leaders meeting in Glasgow. To quote Tearfund's Dr Ruth Valerio: "The IPCC report makes it painfully clear that we are in a fight for survival and can't afford distant promises of action. The door is still open on limiting warming to 1.5C – but only if world leaders make swift cuts to (greenhouse gas) emissions and end further support for polluting fossil fuels. It's time for politicians to stop dragging their feet and do what needs to be done to secure a safer world for us all. Anything less is accepting a death sentence for people at the frontline of this crisis".

As well as signing the Tearfund declaration, we have been registered as an A Rocha UK EcoChurch for some years (ecochurch.arocha.org.uk), and there are simple steps we could start with. For example, did you know that there are now separate recycling bins in the church for food waste, paper and card, and recyclable plastic and cans? Please make use of them correctly, remembering that take-away coffee cups and similar items are not recyclable and should be disposed of in the general waste for incineration.

*Then He said to
his disciples,
'The harvest is
plentiful but the
workers are few.
Ask the Lord of
the harvest,
therefore, to
send out
workers into his
harvest field.'*

LUKE 10:1



In other news...

The **autumn discipleship groups**, started in September and are using Patrick Regan's book "Bouncing Forward". It's not too late to start or join a group - please contact the Parish office to buy a book for £7 or to let us know if you need help finding a group to join. Each week you read a chapter of the book, watch the video online and then come together as a group to discuss- either in-person or via zoom.

St Mary's charities: Major charities (3 year support) are CMS-Uganda, Christian Aid and Project Possible. Minor charities (1 year award): A Rocha, The Children's Society, London City Mission, Novo UK, Hamlin Fistula UK, and the Princes Centre. Nicci Maxwell's response to the news that her charity has been selected for a 3 year grant was:

"Thank you so much! You have absolutely made my day....and my next three years! I am incredibly grateful for the wonderful support I receive from St Mary's both financially and in prayer - you are amazing and hugely appreciated! I hope that I can represent you well and work on your behalf here to the benefit of the community in Kisoro for another three years."

The next **church walk** is planned for Sunday 3rd October. We will be doing a 3 mile circuit taking in Bledlow Ridge, Rout's Green and Radnage, and will hopefully have the opportunity to view the churches in Bledlow Ridge and Radnage. We will meet from 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start in the car park in Church Lane, Bledlow Ridge. The car park is opposite the school and backs onto the churchyard. Please contact Michael Hunt (rev.mdhunt@yahoo.co.uk) if you'd like more detailed directions or need transport to get to the starting point.

Messy Harvest: Messy church begins on Sunday 17th October 3:15-5pm. All are warmly invited to a fun service for all the family, which will include a warm welcome, games, crafts, and a lovely meal together. Please keep this new initiative in your prayers. If you would like to be involved or attend do contact stmarysprcurate@gmail.com

The first gathering of the **monthly luncheon club** was a great success with 35 residents enjoying the companionship, games & food on offer along with entertainment from the Black Dog Band. It was lovely to hear the church buzzing with lively chatter. Thanks to Gill Wilkinson, Elaine Needham, Joyce Wooster, Helen Lidington, Jenny Deverill and their team of helpers on the day. Please let the office know if you would like to help in future months - we really need someone to be the Food Team co-ordinator for Nov 3rd.

The **Light Party** will not take place this year: it will be back lighter and brighter than ever in 2022.

Competition to name this newsletter: many thanks to those who have made a suggestion; no decision yet, so please keep ideas coming. I'd be grateful for **your photo on the theme of Remembrance** for next month's issue for the front cover.

*What are
you called
to help with
this
Autumn?
Contact the
Parish
Office
01844
273300*



Nicci Maxwell



Dates for your diary

Sunday 3 October - Church family walk. All ages welcome, along with any four legged friends that would like to join in. Contact Michael Hunt (rev.mdhunt@yahoo.co.uk).

Sunday 3 October - Harvest Festival at both morning services followed by a 'bring-your-own picnic lunch' together in church from 12.30pm.

Wednesday 6 October - Day Trip at Home 10am-3pm. Booking is essential. Please contact Gill Wilkinson via the Parish Office. Further dates: Weds 3 Nov & 1 Dec.

Saturday 9 October - Coffee morning concert in church at 10.30am with Banjovi Revival - just come along on the day. Donations welcomed for Tearfund.

Sunday 17th October - Messy Church Harvest at 4pm - see Pat Kerr for details.

REMEMBER CLOCKS GO BACK ON 31ST OCT

Sunday 31 October - We celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the re-ordering of the church with prayers in the morning services and special refreshments to enjoy.

Sunday 7 November - 3pm 'Time to Remember' service

Sunday 14 November - 10am Remembrance Sunday Civic Service in church with all-age service at 10am in Church Hall. 11am Act of Remembrance in Market Place.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

Parish Communion continues at 9.15 am on Sundays in church and live streamed to your home. See the St Mary's website for the link to our YouTube channel. At present there is no singing at this service.

Live@St Mary's all age service continues at 11.15 am both in church and live streamed to your home. A zone is set aside in church for those who wish to wear a mask & social distance.

Mid week Holy Communion at St Mary's is on Thursdays at 10.30am.

This month Harvest Evensong is at St Peter's Church, Ilmer at 6pm on Sunday 3rd October (instead of the usual 3rd Sunday of the month).

Please don't forget that we wish our church to remain safe and please stay at home if you have any signs of illness.

For your Prayers in October

At this time of Harvest, please remember in your prayers all those in our community who are involved in food production and distribution: our farmers; those who work in the food industry and all those helping us to access that food, in shops, markets and supermarkets.

Please give thanks for the people who work in food banks, helping to feed people who need help. We pray too that all those who face food poverty can find the help they need.

Finally, we give thanks for the wedding of Sarah Dyson (daughter of Neil & Jane) & Joseph Moffatt and the adult baptism by immersion of Paul Knall.

And, as usual, let's share the love of Christ with all this week.



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

There is a weekly prayer meeting on zoom every Wednesday at 9am - please contact the Parish Office for your zoom invite. Prayer requests can be made via the Prayer section on the website homepage or via the parish office