

# St Mary's Monthly Message

September 2022



## STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS

### *A Note From David*

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

In Jeremiah 6: 16 we read: 'This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls". The younger ones amongst us will find it difficult to appreciate the days before we used satellite devices for navigation, but one of the joys of walking on a summer pilgrimage is referring to maps again and looking for signs that I was walking in the right direction. In this verse from Jeremiah, we are reminded of God's word to his people and the need to pause and reflect on which way they needed to go next. They had the ability to go whichever way they chose but God was advising them to choose the way that God had shown them through Moses, the way that led to life. With September, comes a new academic year and a change of season, as we move from the summer to the autumn. We are standing at a crossroad in the year with a range of options before us of things we could be doing, but my prayer is that we will hear the voice of Jesus saying: "Come, follow me" (Luke 18:22). As I have taken time over the summer to walk St Cuthbert's Way, I have been reminded of some of the first Christians in our country and how they faithfully followed Jesus' calling and example. I have been inspired by the example of St Aiden and St Cuthbert and hope to share more of this over the coming weeks as we also step out as a Church – going deeper with God and reaching out to those around us. The principles of following Jesus haven't changed at all over the years, and as we follow him, so he promises to walk with us and give us his peace and joy. May God richly bless us this autumn as we step out in faith and to God be the glory!

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*Many Blessings, David.*

## *The Interview: Sue Hughes*

Q. Sue, since our last newsletter, you have been ordained: many congratulations! Can you tell us a little about yourself and Jason?

A. Jason and I have been married for just over 31 years and have two grown children. Both are in their mid-twenties; Caitlin lives in London and Adam in Cape Town. We are so proud of them, as young people of faith who are living out the gospel in very different contexts; Caitlin in the Bank of England and Adam living in a safe house with young men coming away from a life of crime and drugs. Jason and I met, whilst volunteering with Lee Abbey International Students Hostel in London and after we married, Jason worked in farming, forestry and land management and I continued my education whilst the children were growing up, gaining qualifications I hadn't achieved at school and training as a Graphic Designer.

We have always felt very called to return to community life and joined Lee Abbey in North Devon with our young family and then moved to Buckinghamshire in 2003 to join a business owner who had purchased a farm with land who was developing a charity that would work with disadvantaged families. We spent over 16 years seeing this Charity grow from an empty but beautiful estate, into a thriving hub, coming alongside and resourcing families who are struggling with most of life's issues. This was both an enormous privilege but also a time of challenge and growth for us as disciples. Over this period, Jason built good relationships with a secondary school for boys with additional educational needs and this developed into a role teaching practical skills and construction to the boys which he currently is still involved with and is dear to his heart.

What brought you to St Mary's?

I became aware of God calling me to "the Church" in 2015, and from that started a 6-year discernment period which I explored with the Anglican Church. After starting my ordination training with Church Mission Society, I completed a placement with Revd Dan Beesley at St James in Birtton until the end of 2021. In January 2022, my DDO, Quentin, introduced me to Revd David Williams and St Mary's Church. This immediately felt like home and a place that I could see myself flourishing in. I was ordained Deacon and licensed as a Curate to St Mary's Princes Risborough in July 2022.

What do you hope to achieve in your curacy?

A good question! I hope to understand and find my own leadership within the ancient traditions of the Church. There is so much that is symbolic and beautiful about the sacraments, rituals, and practices of the Church and to understand them enough to adapt them for a quite different world and culture that we all live in now. I want to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus, those who would not set foot in a church culture because they do not recognise that as meaningful, and to help them find meaning through their own lives and to create new practices and rituals that connect them with God's big story.

Can you tell us a little about your faith?

Jason and I both came to faith in quite powerful ways as teenagers and we both would describe ourselves as people who are continually searching for "more" of God and letting that take us on paths that have been transformational to us personally, whilst also learning to love God and others better as we continue that search.



***For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.***

**JEREMIAH 29:11**

## *In other news...*

Well done to Mark Drewett for completing the **Lands End to John O'Groats cycle ride for the charity Young Minds**. So far he has raised £8,225. His next challenge is the London Marathon. Please sponsor him if you can:  
<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/markdrewett>

Sadly, we will soon be saying **goodbye to Pat, Jenni, Ezra and Phoebe** and their last Sunday will be 16 October. There will be a Bring and Share lunch in Church after the services on that day, so please put that date in your diary. If you would like to give towards the gifts for the family, please pass your contribution to the office or one of the church wardens.

**Ladies' breakfast** on Saturday 3rd September at 9am and the speaker will be Jane Cotton. The breakfast will be continental style, donations on the door. Email [rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk) for more details or if you would like to attend, or sign the list in Church.

There will be a **concert of gospel songs and spirituals** by Banjovi Revival on Saturday 3rd September at 7pm at St Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough. There will be a raffle and a free glass of wine. Donations on entry.

There will be a **prayer evening** on Wednesday 7th September in Church from 7.30-9pm. The theme will be 'Changing Lives'. Contact Averil ([averilstephenson49@gmail.com](mailto:averilstephenson49@gmail.com)) or Jo ([jomarywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jomarywilliams@gmail.com)) for full details.

**Men's breakfast** on Saturday 10th September at 8.45 for 9am in the Church Hall. The speakers will be Chris and Denise Arthey who will be speaking about how their faith has got them through a terrible life changing accident. The cost is £6 a head for a full English breakfast. Contact [mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk](mailto:mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk)  
Copies of their book will be available.

Risborough's **Farmers market** will take place on 10 September on King George V field 9:00-2:00. It will be a foodies delight and there will be entertainment for everyone.

John McGinley will be **leading teams of people out into Risborough to offer to pray for people** on Thursday 8th September 6.30-8.30pm and Saturday 17th September 10.00-12.00pm. It will involve an hour of training and prayer and an hour offering to pray for people. No need to book - just turn up, everyone is welcome. More information please contact John on 07958916367 or [john.mcginley@ccx.org.uk](mailto:john.mcginley@ccx.org.uk)

**A Youth Drop In** will be starting on 15 September 5:30-7:00 for 11-16 year olds and running every Thursday in term time. **Games, Table Tennis, Pool, Tuck Shop, Friendships, Refreshments**. Lower Hall, Princes Risborough Baptist Church. Lisa Dollery (Wycombe YFC Schools & Outreach Worker)  
Email: [lisa@wycombeyfc.org.uk](mailto:lisa@wycombeyfc.org.uk) / Tel: 01494 522777

We are hoping to start a **Sunday Tea**, open to anyone who would like company on a Sunday afternoon, on the 4th Sunday of the month from 2.30pm-4.30pm.  
**Volunteers are needed** to help make sandwiches and cakes (expenses will be reimbursed) and to help on the day, making tea, chatting with people etc. If you could help, even occasionally, please contact Gill on 01844 346145 or 07974 214036 or email [gill.sunfold@googlemail.com](mailto:gill.sunfold@googlemail.com)

*The One Can Trust here in Risborough is becoming very busy again, and is likely to get busier. Could you help to deliver food parcels to those in need on Friday mornings? Or in other ways? Please contact the parish office.*



FOR 11-16 YEAR OLDS (SCHOOL YEARS 7-11)

## YOUTH DROP-IN

STARTING 15 SEPTEMBER 2022  
RUNNING EVERY THURSDAY (TERM TIME)  
5.30 - 7.00PM  
LOWER HALL, PRINCES RISBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH

. GAMES . TABLE TENNIS . POOL .  
. TUCK SHOP . FRIENDSHIPS .

For more information contact:  
Lisa Dollery (Wycombe YFC Schools & Outreach Worker)  
Email: [lisa@wycombeyfc.org.uk](mailto:lisa@wycombeyfc.org.uk) / Tel: 01494 522777

 RUN BY  
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TEL: 01494 522777  
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CHARITY NO: 1063771

*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

**Ladies' Breakfast:** Saturday 3 September in Church at 9:00am.

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturday 10 September, 8:45am in the Church Hall.

**Monthly Lunch Club:** Weds , 7 September 10:00am to 3:00pm.

**Prayer Evening** Wednesday 7 September 7:30-9:00

**Messy Church** 11 September 3:15-5:00pm in Church

**Bereavement Drop In Group:** Mon 12 September 3:00pm in the Chapter House.

**Youth Drop In** starts at Baptist Lower Hall 15 September 5:30-7:00pm

**Evensong at St Peter's, Ilmer** Sunday 18 September at 6:00pm by Tony Eccleston.

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

**Harvest Festival** Sunday 2 October - please bring any food donations to church

**St Mary's Unplugged** Sunday 2 October 6:30pm

**Bring and share lunch to say goodbye to Pat, Jenni and family** Sunday 16 October

## 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

[childrensworker@stmarysrisborough.org.uk](mailto: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 New Beginnings

Thank you, Lord, for your new beginnings and unwavering provision.

We trust that your peace will watch over us as we step into a new beginning.

May we rely on the riches of your love and grace to provide for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

In Jesus' name,  
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: Margaret Loveridge, Jeanne Upton and John Grave.

We send our best wishes to Lesley Russell and Peter Kemp and to Pip Poole-Ferguson and Huw Williams for their forthcoming weddings.

We give thanks for the Baptism of Daisy Lee Charters.

*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](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk)*

*Telephone: 01844 273300*