

St Mary's Monthly Message

SEPTEMBER 2024



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

One of the things I enjoy about being on pilgrimage is discovering new places, sights and people. Five hundred years ago, when sailors set off on voyages, there was a fear amongst many of them of what was beyond the horizon. Sail too far and you risked falling off the edge of the then known world! And the Spaniards who held dominion over both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar had, at its narrowest point, the Pillar of Hercules, a huge marker that bore in its stone "No More Beyond." But then along came Columbus and his voyage of 1492, with the discovery of the new world, which swung open the western doors of Spain. As a result of this, they took the Latin phrase "No More Beyond," removed the first word, and impressed this slogan onto their coins: "More Beyond."

As we come towards the end of summer, and look forward to what the autumn brings, let's have this thought in mind - that we were made for "More Beyond." We all need to be reminded from time to time that there is always more than what we can see or even imagine. Sometimes the daily grind of living can make us numb to the oceans of possibilities that exist with every challenge, or especially to the deeper and richer aspects of life. You were created by God to explore and live life, and Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10). May God's presence go with you into this next season, and may your heart and mind be filled hope.

Every blessing, David

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell
mrslouisefell@icloud.com

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Ministry Fair: what it means for you

Recently we have been asking you to think, pray and reflect on what God is calling you to do with your time, talents and money. On September 22nd at all of our services we will be holding a Ministry Fair in church. The aim of the ministry fair is an opportunity for everyone to see the wide range of activities that are run at St Mary's. It will also be a chance to talk to people who are involved in these areas.

We cannot run these ministry activities without your support of time and money. In between and after our services we would like you to spend time finding out about what these ministries are about and how you might play a part in supporting them. During the following week we would then like you to consider how you can volunteer to help run or support these ministries. As you will see on the day, there is something that we all can get involved in, no matter our age, or abilities. We also want you to consider your giving, as we cannot run these activities without your financial support.

There will then be a follow up to this on Sunday 29th September. In each of our three services there will be a time of response where we would like you to bring to God the area you can volunteer, and a response to giving. For some of us this may be to continue volunteering in a ministry we have been involved in before, and so we commit ourselves once more to that ministry area. Or for others God might be calling you to volunteer in a new ministry. It will also be a chance to offer to God our giving, thanking God for all He gives to us, and offering to God what we can afford.

Our prayer is that the ministry fair will enable all of us to see the scope of what God is doing already in our church and community, and give us the vision for what we could do in the future.

Maker & Fixer at Kop Hill Climb Soap Box Challenge

St Mary's Church Missional Community, Maker & Fixer is excited to be a part of the 2024 Kop Hill Climb, a historic motoring event that has been a beloved tradition in Princes Risborough for over a century. This year, the Maker & Fixer Community, that usually meets at the site of the Repair Barn at Culverton Farm, will instead play a key role in helping to run the Soap Box Challenge, ensuring the event is a fun and memorable experience for all.

A highlight of the event, held on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September is the Soap Box Challenge a thrilling competition where local schools, youth groups, and young budding engineers come together to race homemade, gravity-powered soapboxes down a purpose course on a slope.

The Soap Box Challenge is more than just a race; it's an opportunity for young participants, ages 8 to 16, to showcase their engineering skills, creativity, and teamwork. Teams spend months designing, building, and testing their soapboxes, with the goal of crafting the fastest and most innovative vehicle, a testament to the imagination and dedication of the young people involved.

Maker & Fixer community is particularly passionate about supporting the young participants, and is looking forward to seeing these impressive creations in action, to nurturing community connections and promoting sustainable practices, all the while sharing the love and message of the Kingdom of God.



Kop Hill Soap Box Challenge

In other news...

Calling creatives out there! Planning ahead for the departure of David and Jo, they have asked for a **book of testimonies**, sharing what God has done in the lives of members of St Mary's. Is this a project that you would like to lead? If you don't want to lead, now is the time to be planning what you would like to write as your testimony.

Save the date: as part of **David and Jo's farewell celebrations**, there will be a **Glitter Ball** in church on Friday evening 22 November. More details as they become available. It is planned to make this event affordable to as many people as possible.

The **Bucks Historic Churches Ride and Stride**, Saturday 14 September, 10.00am to 6.00pm, is an annual sponsored walk or bike ride around local churches: you can visit as many or a few churches as you choose. Money raised goes half to the Bucks Historic Churches Trust and half to St Mary's. More information and sponsorship forms will be available in church. For more information <https://ridestride.org/>

There is a **Pimms and Proms concert** by The City of Bradford Brass Band, featuring Jim Taylor who was a curate at St Mary's a few years ago, on Oct 27th at 4pm in Church. All your favourite music from Proms, Movies, Musicals, TV and Classical.

Tickets are £12.50 (under 16's £8) and are available from the Church Office.

The **'Practising the Way' discipleship course** starts on Wednesday 25th September from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Chapter House. The course is based on the book of the same name by John Mark Comer. Copies of the book are still available for sale in Church. To join the course, sign the list in Church or contact Andrew on curate@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Make a difference to **people sleeping rough this winter**: Wycombe Homeless Connection is gearing up to re-open the winter night shelter in January - March 2025 for people who are sleeping rough in south Buckinghamshire. Seven churches are opening their doors to host the shelter and over 100 people have already registered their interest to volunteer. But they need another 200 people to make it happen! Contact: www.wyhoc.org.uk or 01494 447699.

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?

Contact the Parish Office if you can help with any of the above activities.



Glitter Ball: 22 November



City of Bradford Brass Band



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

Ladies' Breakfast, 9.00am Sat 31 August in the Church Hall

Lunch Club Wednesday , 4 September , 10am-3pm in church

Whole church Prayer Evening on September 4th from 7.30pm -9pm in St Mary's

Bereavement Drop-in Group in the Chapter House, Monday 9 September, 3pm

Mens' Breakfast , Sat 14 September, 8.45 -10.30am Church Hall

Messy Church, 29th September, Messy Harvest.

Maker & Fixer Group , Kop Hill 14 and 15 September.

Welcome service for the new curate at Bledlow, John Walton , 28th September, 6pm

Tea for All in the Chapter House, 2.30pm on Sunday 29 September

Prayers at the Yurt: Mon & Fri mornings, 7.30am to 8am

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

For your Prayers this month

Prayer for Service

Lord, we thank you for all those who offer
their time and talents, joining in our
ministry of bringing healing, hope, and
compassion to those in need.

Strengthen and sustain all those who
volunteer in our church
that they may love and care for your
people.

Amen.

A Prayer for Generosity

Dear Lord, teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve you as you deserve,
to give and
not to count the cost, to fight and not to
heed the wounds, to toil and not to
seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for
reward, save that of knowing that I do
your will.

Amen

Please pray for the baptisms of Henry Naismith and Zoe Chandler.

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of: Lindsay Dutton, Julia Sandford, Fred Deverill, Peter Clark.

We uphold in prayer: Elaine Needham, Paula Knall, Geoffrey and Joy John, Jenny Deverill, David Coleman, the Rolfe family, Carl State-Claridge, Kelly May, and all those bereaved, suffering ill health or facing operations.

Please pray for:

- David and Jo in these months that they remain with us and as they prepare to start a whole new chapter in Wales next year
- all those who are sad and fearful at the impending departure of David and Jo
- wisdom and patience as our leadership start the journey of finding a new rector

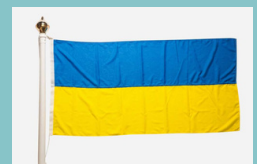
Copies of this newsletter are available in Church for you to collect and pass on to friends and neighbours.



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