

St Mary's Monthly Message

September 2021



A Note From David

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

I am delighted to welcome you to the start of a new term, a new chapter in our lives and a new monthly newsletter!

We are focusing this month on all those in our community involved in education: pupils and teachers everywhere; new and innovative projects for children in our church; and of course, the exciting news that our new children's and families worker Jenni Kerr will be joining us this month. You can read more about Jenni in this month's interview.

I hope you will like the new format of the newsletter which I believe will help our church family and community to stay in touch with St Mary's better than ever. I look forward to hearing your comments on it.

I hope that we can move forward together into the new term with Covid-19 restrictions behind us and a bright outlook in front of us.

Blessings, David.

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

A Note from David

*Jenni Kerr talks
about her new role as
Children's and
Families Worker*

*Pat Kerr and some
innovative ideas*

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

Prayers for September

The Interview: Jenni Kerr

As Jenni joins us later this month to take up the role of interim Children's and Families Worker (CFW), we take the opportunity to hear from Jenni about her plans to rekindle our children's work at St Mary's.

What brings you to this role, Jenni?

I have a lot of experience in Children's Ministry, which has included working with children in church and in schools. I've also worked with families on parenting skills.

What will your focus be at St Mary's?

It will be about re-establishing links with families, helping them to feel safe and secure in returning to church, and in sending their children to Sunday groups. I am also looking forward to being a presence in our schools. Very importantly, I will ensure that we are up to scratch with safeguarding too. And I want to build teams up again after the pandemic, because everything we do in children's ministry relies on our volunteers.

What's your ethos in a nutshell?

It's all about the three Es:

- Effectiveness in letting our children see in us how Jesus changes lives;
- Efficiency through being authentic in what we do; and
- Excellence, because our children deserve it.

More news for Children

BY PAT KERR

This term sees the start of something new at St Mary's for children. in our community. We will see the start of Messy Church, which I wanted to introduce before the pandemic hit us. I believe Messy Church is a fabulous way to reach out to families in our community. They see us being authentic and get to understand that church is a fun place where we build relationships. I am still building a team around Messy Church because it is resource-intensive, but it really will reap rewards for us as a church.

We will also continue to run Reconnect for our families on a monthly basis. it has been great over the last few months to see the children rebuilding their friendships and engaging with church in a family-friendly setting.

*Children
are a gift
from the
Lord;
they are
a reward
from Him*

PSALMS 127:3

*Sunday 19th
September at
4pm
Reconnect
Service*

*Sunday 17th
October at
4pm Messy
Harvest*

In other news...

A quick reminder that the annual Good Childhood Report for 2021 is available on the **Children's Society** website. For those who have a collection box, don't forget to bring it to the Chapter House in St Mary's on Thursday 16 September 9.30-12 noon. Helen Lidington is our new Children's Society Champion: please contact her via the parish office if you wish to find out any more about this church charity.

In August, David and Peter Dixon led a pilgrimage from Winchester to Canterbury along the ancient Pilgrims Way. Many members of St Mary's joined for a while, whether a day or two, or longer. You can **sponsor David and the Canterbury Pilgrims** online (see the website) or by sending your money to the Parish Office. More information about Project Possible is available at projectpossible.org.uk. Excitingly, they have already raised over £1.000!

The **autumn discipleship groups**, starting in September, will be using Patrick Regan's book "Bouncing Forward". Do make sure that you choose the right author as there is a similarly-named book out there. Why not take a risk and maybe join a new group? 'Please contact the Parish office which has the books in stock if you wish to buy a book for £7. Also let us know if you need help finding a group to join.

Competition to name this newsletter: can you come up with the name for this newsletter? All suggestions to Louise Fell (mrsloisefell@icloud.com). What will you suggest for it?

St Mary's PCC has made a declaration that we publicly recognise a **Climate and Environmental Emergency** and commits us to take action. Further info on our plans will be available on the St Mary's website soon.

St Mary's monthly lunch club, **Day Trip at Home**, started on 8 September. with a day of fun and entertainment as well as delicious lunch. See dates of future Day Trips below.

Our charities for 2022 - The PCC have voted on the nominations received this year and the results are:

Major charity (3 year support)-CMS-Uganda, Nicci Maxwell

Minor charities (1 year award)

- A Rocha
- The Children's Society
- London City Mission
- Novo UK
- Hamlin Fistula U.K.
- The Princes Centre

Many thanks to everyone who submitted nominations.

Let's pray and think creatively about how we can support our charities.

Any comments or suggestions about the newsletter would be very welcome to mrsloisefell@icloud.com.

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

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 30 September - A Ladies Curry Night 7pm at Radhuni. A great opportunity to catch up! Contact Clare Bellini for more details (claire.bellini@yahoo.co.uk).

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 (01844 273300 or parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk). Further dates: 3 November and 1 December

Saturday 9 October - Coffee morning concert in church at 10.30am with Banjovi Revival

Sunday 31 October - Light Party, fun and games in church for all in the afternoon

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

Parish Communion continues at 9.15 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 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 is on Thursdays at 10.30.

Third Sunday in the month, Evensong at St Peter's Church, Ilmer at 6pm (check website for variations)

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 September

This month please remember all those in our church family and community for whom September marks the start of a new term: our Children's and Families Worker, Jenni, students, teachers, and all those who support them including parents and those who work alongside teachers. We pray for a smooth transition and a term where learning is not interrupted by Covid outbreaks.

Our prayers are also with all those young people in our community transitioning to secondary or college, and to the little ones starting school or pre-school for the first time. These are big changes in their lives and we pray that they may bring much joy.

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.

Sharing the love of Christ with All

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