

St Mary's Monthly Message



A Note From Andrew

Spring is ending and the summer is beginning. For the church that means the season of Easter comes to an end. But before we move away from Easter into what the Church terms 'ordinary time' there is one final burst of activity in the two seasons of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

Pentecost of course is that amazing Sunday where we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church as Jesus promised. That then rolls into Trinity Sunday where we remember the work of God in three persons over time and history. Too often it is easy to forget the work of the Holy Spirit as we focus on the birth and resurrection of Jesus. We tend to celebrate the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but then move on. Francis Chan wrote a book lamenting this fact back in 2009 called 'Forgotten God' he writes, '*... the Holy Spirit is tragically neglected and, for all practical purposes, forgotten. While no evangelical would deny His existence, and I'm willing to bet there are millions of churchgoers across America who cannot confidently say they have experienced His presence or action in their lives over the past year.*' (Francis Chan, 'Forgotten God', 2009, p.15). Would we say the same thing about our own views on the Holy Spirit? Or could we say that we have experienced the Holy Spirit over the last year? Do we like many forget the Holy Spirit when we move past Pentecost? Hopefully we don't, but to help us to remember the work of the Holy Spirit, we are going to begin the summer period by spending a few weeks reflecting and learning about the third person of the Trinity. Our short sermon series will look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the OT, before looking at how we can be equipped for ministry by the Holy Spirit through the fruits and gifts that He gives.

A final thought is to look out for the prayer initiative Thy Kingdom Come and our Week of Prayer. We are linking these together to use the free resources provided. Do pick up a booklet in church for you to use during week. More information will come out shortly on the sessions for the Week of Prayer so that you plan which sessions you would love to attend.

Revd Andrew Walmsley

What's inside?

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new PCC Members*



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Meet our new PCC Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new PCC members voted in at the APCM on April 29th. The full list of PCC members is on the website and in the porch.

Hannah Moore

I grew up going to church, and have always considered myself a Christian, but in my early adulthood I did not have a church I felt part of. When my husband and I moved to Princes Risborough we found St Mary's church and instantly felt welcomed. Through being a member at the church, I have been able to grow in my faith and been encouraged to be involved in children's church, messy church, leading services and little lighthouse. All things I would never have imagined myself doing, but have felt God's guidance throughout. I look forward to being part of the PCC during the recruitment and appointment of the new rector. Being involved in the decision making about the direction of the church, in particular in relation to children's and family work is a particular interest of mine.

Peter Cline

I was brought up in a Christian family and have enjoyed a good working life which included some twenty years of Cathedral worship whilst living in Exeter and near to Wells. Looking back, I realise that this time was a period of relatively complacent Christianity and it was only later that, on joining a small village Church near Abingdon, that I was welcomed in and invited to join the PCC, became Churchwarden and really started to take my faith seriously and to share some of the blessings I had received with that Church family and beyond. I was Churchwarden during an Interregnum there and felt that my experience could be useful at St Mary's during this current Interregnum and beyond.

Sue Seward

Physically and spiritually exhausted after years of involvement in Derby Diocese, church schools and parish responsibilities, I was looking forwards to St Mary's being my rest when we arrived here in Princes Risborough eleven years ago. The trouble with the Holy Spirit is that it often has other ideas. The Church Hall raised its head looking unloved and in need of tender loving care and what is one to do when one's husband enrolls you in the Church Hall committee? Rolling up your sleeves and getting on with whatever it throws at you is the only way forward. It feels like coming out of retirement joining the PCC but then again, the Holy Spirit has been nagging me for a while and I've learnt to give in. It feels as if the church family is on the cusp of a new adventure this year and it might be fun to join in.

Bryan Matthew

I became a Christian relatively late (in my late 20's) through a wonderful physical religious experience (since repeated on the St Mary's Alpha course some years ago) and then attended a series of Anglican and Baptist churches. During the Alpha course, I, together with others, felt a calling to become more involved at SMC. Originally it was through membership of the PCC but then later extended to joining the Strategy Group, becoming a Church Warden and providing HR support to the church operation including recruitment of lay staff etc. My prayers for the next phase of our Mission and Ministry is to further extend our influence within the growing parish community to appeal to all people and to ensure we do 'share the Love of Christ with All.

Biddy Gilman

Psalm 139 is my 'go to' psalm. "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (v16). God's timing in life situations is exquisite. Since becoming a Christian (in my late school years), I have been aware of His constant leading and His faithfulness in answering prayer. Thus I am in St Mary's, the place where God wants me to be, and I seek to serve Him in whatever role He leads.

Ronel Murray

We also welcome Ronel Murray who was featured in a fuller interview in this newsletter last year and who is looking forward to being part of the PCC.



In other news...

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension (29 May) to Pentecost (8 June) for more people to come to know Jesus. We are invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Here are some creative ideas to help you pray for your five people. You could:

- write down the names of the 5 people you are praying for in your phone, or place a note somewhere in your home (like the bathroom mirror) or on a little card and set reminders to pray for them throughout the day.
- use a band and tie 5 knots, each one representing your 5 or maybe each time you drink a cup of tea, coffee or glass of water, you could remember to pray for them.
- turn your everyday journeys into moments of prayer - be it walking, driving or cycling and hold one person each day in prayer, then collectively praying for them at particular points.
- try the 555 prayer challenge - praying blessings over your 5 people daily at 5pm.

All are invited to join in the **Prayer Week** at St Mary's running from **9-13th June**. There are Prayers in church at **7.30am, 12.30pm and 7.30pm**. Throughout the week, the focus is on the Lord's Prayer, a different verse from Matthew 6:9-13 will be covered each day. The prayer sessions will include a variety of formats from meditation and reflective prayer through to Evening Prayer from Common Worship. Please see the information in church for more detail.

Bucks Art Weeks at St Dunstan's Church - nine artists and makers will be exhibiting at the church between **7 & 14 June** with cream teas at the weekend. The exhibits include: paintings, print-making and illuminations, paper sculpture, turned vessels and ceramics, mosaics, willow weaving and jewellery.

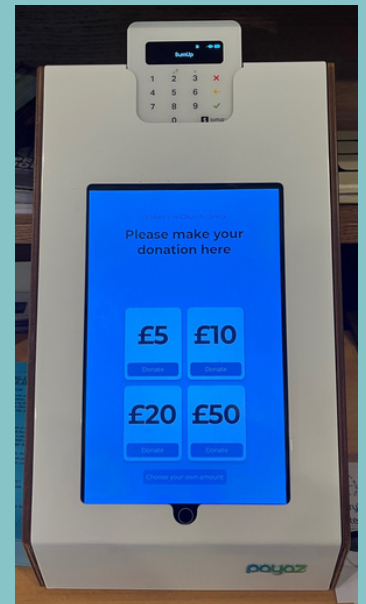
The **200th Anniversary of St John's Church Lacey Green** is being celebrated with a series of events from Sat June 28 to Sun 6 July. On **Sunday 29th June** at 3.00.p.m. there will be a "Songs of Praise" service in the church, followed by a tea. The celebratory Evensong on **Thurs 3 July** at 7.30pm will be attended by the Bishop of Buckingham. Flower arrangements reflecting the history of the Church may be viewed on Friday 4, 10am-12 noon and 2-4pm. On **Saturday 5 July** at 3pm there will be an organ concert by a professional musician - tickets are £20 to include afternoon tea. Contact Tony Bundock at: tonybundock49@gmail.com.

St Mary's will again be hosting the **Lighthouse Quiz on Saturday June 14th** at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 8 people, raffle and heads and tails game. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Prizes for the winning team. Raffle donations welcome. To book a table, please contact Jamie Carter on 01844 273286 (booking essential)

Looking Ahead

PR Town Festival runs from 5th to 12th July and St Mary's will be hosting two lunchtime concerts from local Primary Schools on Weds 9 & Thurs 10 and then on Friday 11, the Jingers will be giving their usual coffee morning concert.

Princes Risborough Lighthouse is running from **Monday 28th July to Friday 1st August**. Volunteer & children's registration is now open.
<https://app.signmeup.org.uk/lighthouse-princes-risborough/27>



***Don't forget
You can make regular
or one-off donations
to St Mary's at the
Payaz Terminal***

GIVING ...

... keeps St Mary's going.

From services and AV
to lighting and courses,
we rely on

Regular Planned Giving.

Please support the Church.
To get started, please contact
the Giving Secretary:

Michael Hoey
01844 275192
mhoey@btinternet.com

***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

Lunch Club: Wednesday, 4 June, 10am-3pm in St Mary's Church

Messy Church: Sunday 8 June. 3.15-5pm in Church

Bereavement Drop-in Group: in the Chapter House, 3pm on Mon 9 June

Week of Prayer 9-13 June, Daily Sessions: in Church 7.30am 12.30pm, 7.30pm

Morning Prayers at Culverton Farm: Mon & Fri mornings, 7.30am to 8am in the Old Dairy, Wycombe Road, HP27 0EU (*the Yurt is being repaired over the summer*)

Lighthouse Quiz: Saturday 14 June, 7.30pm in Church

Maker & Fixer at Culverton Farm: Sunday 15 June, 3-5pm

Archdeacon's Visitation Service: Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm in Church

Tea for All in the Chapter House, 2.30pm on Sunday 22 June

Play Cafe: Tuesdays during term time from 9.30am to 11am in Church

Youth Group: Sundays during term time from 6.30pm to 7.45pm in the Chapter House

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

The Bishop of Buckingham, Bishop Dave Bull, will preach at the 9.30am and 11.15am services on Sunday 22 June. The Youth Group will be leading the 11.15am service on Sunday 29 June.

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.

St Peter's Church, Ilmer - Evensong & shortened HC 15 June at 6pm.

For your Prayers this month

Come Holy Spirit,
blow away division and despair.
Light your flame of courage and hope in us
and warm our hearts with wisdom and love.

Be our Helper, as we seek your ways of justice.
Be our Comforter, as we share your peace with our wounded world.
Be our Advocate, as we call for the fullness of life for all. **Amen**

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of:

Frances Thomas-Davies, Norma Williams-Wright

We uphold in prayer: Jimmy Finlay, Sarah Drewett, Joyce Wooster, Lily Matthews, Dennis Scourfield, Pete Wynn, Elaine Needham and granddaughter Emma, Paula Knall, 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:

- Five people you know that they may come to know Jesus
- Those involved in leading prayer sessions during Prayer Week
- The right candidate to come forward to be our new Team Rector as advertising begins this month across the Diocese and in The Church Times

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



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.

Contact the Parish Office
parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Tel: 01844 273300