

St Mary's Monthly Message



Thanking God for the Harvest

September 2025

A Note From Andrew,

Dear Friends

As we move from the summer to autumn and hit September, we move into a period that many in the Christian Church see as a time to think and reflect on creation - or creation tide - ending with our time of thanksgiving at harvest. This season runs from 1st September to 4th October (the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Ecology), and is a special season where we celebrate God as creator and allow ourselves time to reflect on creation being an act of love from God. It gives us a time in the year where we can pray and respond together to the 'cry of creation'. At St Mary's we will round off this season by celebrating Harvest, thanking God for all He provides for us.

In his video for September, beginning this season, Pope Leo XIV said this prayer. Perhaps you might like to start your time of reflection with this too:

“Lord, you love everything you have created,
and nothing exists outside the mystery of your tenderness.

Every creature, no matter how small,
is the fruit of your love and has a place in this world.
Even the simplest or shortest life is surrounded by your care.

Like St. Francis of Assisi, today we too want to say:

‘Praised be you, my Lord!’ “

Amen

God bless

Revd Andrew Walmsley



What's inside?

Hello from Steve & Alex Benoy.

Steve Joins us as our new Team Rector from November 30th

Steve's Licensing Service is at St Mary's on Wednesday 26th November.

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

Prayers for this month

Hello from Steve & Alex Benoy

How wonderful it was to meet many people from the churches in and around Princes Risborough at the end of July. Thank you for calling me to serve you as your next Team Rector. Alex & I are so looking forward to joining in with all the Lord is doing in the next season of our life together as a Church.

In due time, there will be plenty of opportunities to share our stories and get to know one another. For now, you may like to know that I currently serve as Bishop's Chaplain in Peterborough diocese, a role I initially combined with being Canon Missioner at the Cathedral. Before that I had been Director of Ordinands in the diocese, which meant leading the team overseeing the selection and training of lay & ordained ministers. During that time we belonged to an informal Anglican church that met in a school and helped lead the youth work & music. Previously I had been vicar of a large and growing church in Kettering. I started ordained life in south-west London after a few years teaching, and following curacy worked across the deanery developing a project which enabled Christian young people to serve and share their faith with 'unchurched' young people.

I love to help people come close to God in worship, understand the Bible better, be attuned to the winds of the Spirit and discover their place in God's service, for the Church to be a practical blessing to the community, sharing the good news of Jesus & seeing the church grow.

Alex is an administrator, working over the years in publishing, local government, the NHS and most recently as EA to the Director of Education. She also ran her own catering business for some years. We're a musical family with pretty varied tastes. Our three sons have now left home and live in the Midlands and Wales. We love the mountains and the sea and have developed a soft spot for North Wales in particular. Our collie, Freddie, adores the waterfalls and beaches. Neither of us come from particularly Christian families. Alex came to faith as a teenager when invited to a Christian camp by some school friends. I became a Christian through meeting Alex in my last year at school. Our childhood roots are largely in Surrey. Alex grew up there, I ended up there after moving around a fair bit. I was born in Australia – but that's a story for another time!

Thank you for your dedication to the Lord and one another, especially those carrying particular responsibilities during this period of vacancy. Until we are with you, be assured that our prayers are with you.

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust I him..."

(Romans 15:13)

Steve & Alex



In other news...

Ride and Stride in aid of Historic Churches

Ride + Stride is open to walkers as well as horse-riders and cyclists – in fact to anyone using a non-mechanical form of transport. This year it will be held on 13 September from 10am to 6pm to raise money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination in the county it is taking place in. The funds are divided between the church of the participant's choice and their local Historic Churches Trust. Please sponsor Michael Hoey who is aiming to visit 50 churches around Oxford on his bike in one day.

Harvest Festival will be celebrated at all morning services on Sunday 5th October. You are invited to bring along food items which will be donated to the One Can Foodbank. The items currently most needed are:

Tinned meat meals
Tinned ham & corned beef (low salt)
Tinned fish (especially oily fish)
Tinned potatoes and vegetables
Tinned fruit
Tea / instant coffee
Healthy cereals
(such as green 'traffic light' cereals which include: Weetabix, Shredded Wheat, oats and unsweetened wholegrain cereals)

UHT milk
Peanut butter and honey
Cooking oil (e.g. olive oil, 500ml)
Cooking & pasta sauces
Tinned soup
Toilet roll
Toothpaste / shower gel / deodorant
Tampons
Nappies (sizes 5, 6, 7, 8 only)

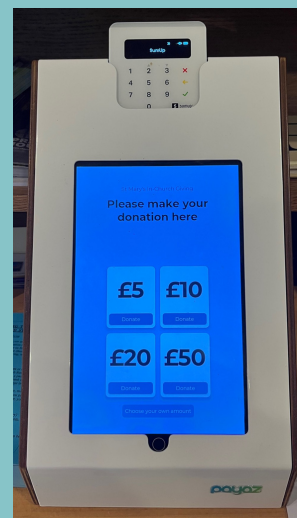
The **Men's Breakfast** will be on Saturday 13 September at 8.45am in the Parish Hall when Tim Horton will give an insight into the challenges of creating AV systems for churches. As usual a full English breakfast is available for £5 - contact mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk to reserve your place.

The **Sunday night Youth Group** restarts on Sunday 14 September at 6.30pm in the Chapter House and is open to young people of secondary school age. Check out the St Mary's Young People page on our website to find out more and to register.

The **weekly Play Cafe** on Tuesdays, 9.30-11am, regularly welcomes 40 babies and toddlers and their parents / carers. We urgently need more helpers to come and chat with the parents / carers and generally help where needed. This is a fun and joyful event which really benefits families in our community. Please contact Stella or the office if you are interested and can spare 2 hours from 9-11am. Thank you.

The **monthly Lunch Club** (1st Wednesday of the month) would very much appreciate donations of cakes for the afternoon tea served at every session. Homemade or bought cakes are all welcome. Please contact Gill Wilkinson or the office if you can help. Thank you.

Nicci Maxwell, our CMS Mission Partner in South Sudan, will be visiting St Mary's on Wednesday 17th September. She will be giving a short talk in the Chapter House at 11.30am, followed by a bring & share lunch (sign-up list in church). St Mary's is supporting Nicci with a 3 year grant, so please come along and hear more about what she does providing paediatric and neonatal medical care to local and refugee communities, and training and supporting local paediatric teams. You can read her blog: <http://niccimaxwell.wordpress.com>.



*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, 2 Sept & 1 Oct, 10am-3pm in St Mary's Church

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 13 Sept, Parish Hall, 8.45am

Ride & Stride: churches around the Diocese, Saturday 13 Sept

Nicci Maxwell Talk & Lunch: Weds 17 Sept, 11.30am in the Chapter House

Bereavement Drop-in Group: in the Chapter House, 3pm on Monday 8 Sept

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*)

Messy Church: Sunday 21 Sept, 3.15pm in Church

Tea for All in the Chapter House, 2.30pm on Sunday 28 Sept

Play Cafe: Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11am in Church starts again on Sept 9.

Youth Group: Sundays during term time from 6.30pm to 7.45pm in the Chapter House starts again on Sept 14

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 in the Parish Hall 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 21 Sept at 6pm.

For your Prayers this month

God of hope,
With you nothing is impossible.
Your promises endure, Your Spirit sustains us.
Establish in us hope for your world;
Hope that moves us, Like fire in our bones,
Like a shoot springing up from the soil,
Like an ever-flowing stream.
Nurture in us a vision for change.
Stir in us a desire for justice,
That our hope may become action,
That your will may be done. Amen.

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

Kenneth Rutland, Judith Sainsbury, Rosalyn Jefferson, Jimmy Hogan, Colin Forbes

We uphold in prayer: All those bereaved, suffering ill health or facing operations.

We give thanks for: The baptism of Poppy Beaton and the wedding of Carla Legg and Tycen Clarke here at St Mary's.

Please pray for:

- All the leaders and volunteers involved with Play Cafe, Messy Church and the Youth Group as they restart after the summer.
- The staff and pupils at Longwick School, PR School and PR Primary at the start of the Autumn term.
- For our new Rector Steve and his wife, Alex as they prepare to move here in November.
- Our Missional Communities at the Yurt and Maker & Fixer.

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