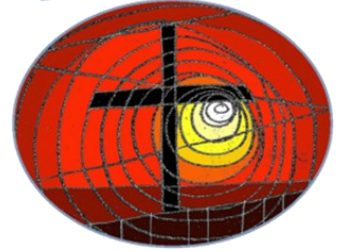




Keeping in Touch



April-May 2024

St Mary's North Mymms is an outward looking church, catering for all age groups and helping the local community to experience God's love and grow in faith

Rev Penny writes ...

"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

We have entered the Easter season, which will continue for the next 50 days, ending when we arrive at the Pentecost Celebrations, in May. Signs of new life, of birth are all around us. Golden daffodils, bright red tulips and deep purple and yellow crocuses are out in number; the first green buds and leaves are started to break out on the tips of trees and shrubs. In the fields around our church, the sheep are getting ready to lamb. It's a bit warmer, it's a bit rainier!



Throughout the world, Christians celebrate the Easter feast in a diversity of ways including adorning the Cross with beautiful flowers, decorating and wearing Easter Bonnets, and sharing the joyful *"Alleluia! Christ is risen!"* greeting whenever they meet. Decorating real eggs, Egg Rolling races and Easter Egg hunts for knitted or chocolate eggs are popular. At this time, around the world, there are special Easter foods to eat – hopefully we have all enjoyed a hot cross bun or two. And many of us love to watch or join in with a traditional local Easter Parade. The Easter lily, a symbol of the resurrection, is traditionally used to decorate our church chancels.

As we celebrate Easter, and as the sombre, reflective period of Lent draws to a close, we first remember the darkness and desolation of Jesus' lonely death on the Cross on Good Friday. But then we are lifted up, as we celebrate with joy and hopeful promise, his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Jesus died for us, out of love for us, and then defeated death by rising to new life, and giving us a promise of eternal life with him. This is why so many Easter symbols and customs revolve around the images of new life.

Cont'd.....

What can this mean for us? It might mean that we can envisage and embrace a new fresh start, a turning of the page and a new hope for better things in our lives. We might choose to achieve this through a new resolve or re-dedication to live this year in a more fulfilling way, setting ourselves and embracing some new goals or challenges.

A challenge might be to befriend someone who is lonely, using the phone to make a new connection or meeting up for a cup of tea and a chat. We might decide to make a renewed resolve to live more simply, to buy less, to produce less waste and to recycle more. We might try to deepen our spiritual life by praying more regularly, reading the Bible or reading a piece of Christian literature – maybe a story about one of the great Saints, or about some of the great Christian men and women of faith. We might choose to get more involved in the life of St Mary's Church by volunteering to help with refreshments our various events, or church cleaning, or helping to keep the church grounds tidy.

And, we might decide to find a new time and a new way to be with Jesus, our great friend, and Saviour, who loved us so very much that he gave up his life in order that we might have new life enabling us to live as men and women of great expectation and joy. *"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"*

Well done Joyce!



A familiar face to all of us, Joyce Clark took on the challenge of walking 100 miles in a month, all in aid of the Isabel Hospice. It is a charity that is very close to Joyce's heart, having supported it for many years. Recently a very dear friend passed away and the Hospice was there for him at the end. Her daughter-in-law is also a bank nurse there. The thought behind the 100 mile challenge is that a nurse walks 8,000 steps on an average shift. Joyce was out every day in all weathers and completed the

challenge with time to spare. Joyce is very active in the Bowls Club, local sailing club and Women's Institute, all of whom have dug deep as have her friends and family. The total she has raised as we go to press is an impressive £1,800. I know she would like to thank everyone who contributed to that total. Well done Joyce we are very proud of you!

Snowdrop Celebration

Early in February we celebrated the beauty of the snowdrops in our tranquil churchyard. On Saturday we welcomed people who came to see the snowdrops with a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. On Sunday afternoon we were wonderfully entertained by Bella Cora, a local choir with a medley of popular songs. With thanks to everyone who helped make it a successful weekend.



Mothering Sunday

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Lent, was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. The 'family' of St Mary's came together on Sunday 10th



St Mary's School Year 3 used hand prints to make colourful pictures for the Hope Railings



Posies ready to for the Sunday Club to distribute to the congregation

March to celebrate the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives and consider ways in which God cares for us like a mother. Posies made by members of the congregation were happily distributed by members of the Sunday Club.



**Saturday 13th April
at 7.00pm**

We look forward to welcoming Mark Jennings to St Mary's Church on Saturday 13th April for a guitar recital. Mark is a British born classical guitar recitalist, much

sought after in the UK and overseas. Join us at the church for this wonderful and uplifting concert .

Tickets cost £15 (£5 for 16 years and under) including a glass of prosecco or a soft drink in the interval, and can be purchased on Ticketsource using the QR code, from the church or on the door.



Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Church is holding an Afternoon Tea on

Saturday 18th May

3.00pm sit down. Dress to impress!

Tickets £15 from Lisa Large, the church,
email northmymmschurch@btinternet.com
or visit the church website.



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

will be held on **Sunday 19th May** at **11.30am**

preceded by the Annual Vestry meeting when we elect the Churchwardens. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports on the church's work over the past year and the maintenance of church fabric, to receive the audited accounts, and elect Electoral Roll members to serve as the parish representatives. The APCM is always

interesting and offers an opportunity for anyone on the Electoral Roll to voice opinions on the way the church has been or is being managed. Do come and support your church, your parish and your representatives.



North Mymms Arts Festival

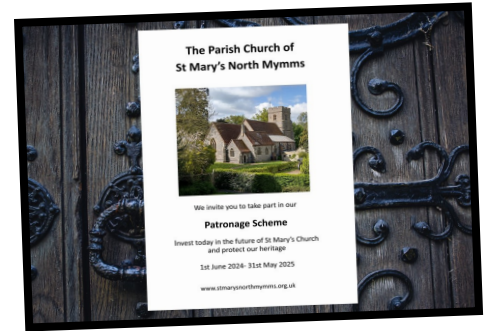
12th - 18th October 2024

We are delighted that the Arts Festival will be returning again this year from 12th – 18th October. We are currently planning events to run alongside the exhibition and also hope to attract ceramicists, glass makers and jewellers this year. Many of last year's artists will be returning and new artists will be joining us.

Visit our website www.northmymmsarts.co.uk for all the information or see the next newsletter, which will have more information about the events.

Patronage Scheme - supporting our church

We would like to thank everybody who has joined our patronage scheme. It continues to support running costs, maintenance and repairs of our beautiful historic church building. It is also a wonderful way to commemorate a loved one or celebrate a special event. Your name and the reason for your patronage will be displayed in our patronage book in the church.



The current patronage year ends on 31st May. If you are already a patron, we will contact you soon to ask if you would like to continue your patronage for another year (1st June 2024 - 1st May 2025). If you have not yet become a patron, please do consider becoming one.

To find out more visit www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk/patronage-scheme or pick up a leaflet in church.

Welcome to Sara and Tandy



On 11th February the congregation was introduced to Sara Head and Tandy. Sara is an ordinand with Easter Region Ministry Course (ERMC). She is in her final year of studies and joined St Mary's on placement during February and March. On coming to St Mary's Sara said "I am looking forward to worshipping with you and getting to know people within the church community. I know I will learn a lot from being at St Mary's, so thank you for this opportunity."

Sara's sending church (where she currently worships) is Christ Church in St Albans but she lives in Colney Heath. She works as an Assistant Headteacher, responsible for the Primary Department, at Heathlands School for Deaf Children in St Albans. She is deaf herself and uses two hearing aids, speaks and lipreads as well as using sign language with other deaf or sign language using people. She has a Hearing Dog (Assistance Dog), Tandy, a 10 year old Working Cocker Spaniel, who, Sara says LOVES people and food and who was also very excited indeed to meet everyone. We look forward to welcoming Sara and Tandy back in July following Sara's ordination on 30th June.

Dates for your diary

Knitting Group - Thursdays 4th & 18th April and 2nd & 16th May
10.00am - 12noon

Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots - Every Wednesday in term time 10.00am—11.30am

Poetry Group - Fridays 26th April and 24th May 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Sunday Club - Sundays 14th & 28th April, 12th & 26th May 09.30am
during Parish Communion

Wild Worship - Sundays 28th April and 26th May at 2.00pm

Churchyard Tidy Up Party - Saturdays 27th April and 25th May 2.00pm - 4.00pm

NEW!! Sewing Group - Thursday 9th May 10.00am-1.00pm. £3.00

Do you need help with any sewing projects? Come along for help & friendship.

Funerals

11th December 'Bob' Cecil Tanner

11th December Stanley Cooper

18th December Iain Sinclair

19th December 'Pam' Eileen Tooley

Contact us

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