



Keeping in Touch

October-November 2023

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 Ruth writes ...

By now, many people already feel that the Summer weather has well and truly ended. The mornings are more chilly and the grass is always wet with dew. The children have settled back into school and some of the youth have headed off to start back at their halls of residence at Universities all over the country. The TV is full with ads for the Autumn line-up of new programmes about to begin.



Here at St Mary's church, and echoed throughout the UK, we mark the passing of the seasons with special annual services held in the next few months –

- ◇ Harvest Festival 1st October
- ◇ All Souls 29th October
- ◇ Remembrance Sunday 12th November
- ◇ Christ the King 26th November

and the following week we enter the season of Advent and then, of course, the culmination of it all, Christmas. But before we get to Christmas, we enjoy the Autumn months, with the crisp weather and magnificent displays of colourful foliage.

We prepare to decorate our church and give thanks for the harvests, in thanks to God for all he provides for us, with opportunities for people to come and share their bounty with tinned goods and dried foods that we in turn pass onto the Hatfield Food Bank. Do join us as we say thank you for all that is produced for us, especially as we live in a rural area and see farmers go about their daily duties of supply the raw ingredients to sustain us.

The Bible contains a letter to the early church in Ephesus and the writer St. Paul encourages us all to live our lives in an attitude of thankfulness. It is hard and takes

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....a lot of discipline and requires effort. If you're feeling grouchy for no good reason, try smiling - the physical act of smiling makes you feel more cheerful whether you want to or not.

We acknowledge that many people are worrying over the current cost of living crisis and it is affecting us in many different ways. If you are struggling with life then please do get in touch and share your burdens with us. All of our struggles and sufferings matter to God, however small they are. St. Paul understood that if we can learn to be positive and thankful during the good times, then that will help to sustain us through the bad times. He was in prison when he wrote to the Ephesians. Being thankful did not diminish his hardship, but it did help him to endure it.

Each new day brings with it a new beginning and a challenge. So, I will leave you with an Autumn challenge, a challenge to be thankful. To make the effort to see the positive in a situation rather than the downside. Instead of moaning, to give thanks instead. And I think that if we can do that, we will discover that whatever life may bring, it will be the better for having consciously tried to live it in an attitude of thankfulness.

And then there were ten (more)!!

Over the years St Mary's has supported many charities through its Away Giving and running events to raise money for various charitable organisations. However our giving doesn't always come in the form of money. We have a group of dedicated knitters too who use their time and talents to enrich their giving. Recently the group

presented 10 blankets to Nicola McKinnon from Herts Young Homeless. These are included in a support package which the charity provides to those housed by the charity. Nicola came to the knitting group session and spent nearly two hours chatting to the group and explaining the incredible work that the charity carries out.



Herts Young Homeless

Happy Birthday Diana

In August Diana Glanfield celebrated her 90th Birthday with family and friends. On the Sunday she was presented with flowers and a card signed by us all as a small gesture of thanks for all that she does for the church.

Thank you Diana—you are one amazing lady.





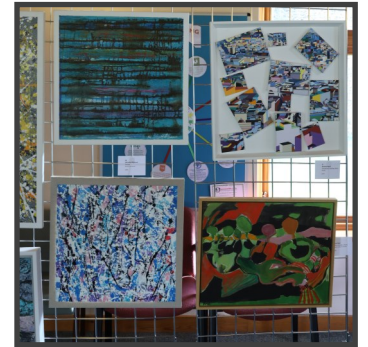
North Mymms Arts Festival

23rd - 29th September 2023

After a year in the planning the Festival came to life with 26 artists, over 150 framed and unframed artworks, a concert, art workshops, a history talk and poetry. Our thanks to everyone involved, participants, volunteers and visitors. Here are just a few highlights of the week.



Getting ready!!



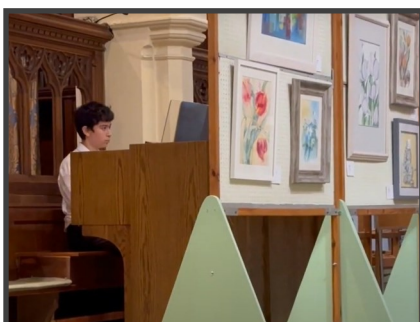
A wonderful display of varied and inspiring art



Art Workshop with Robin Elgar



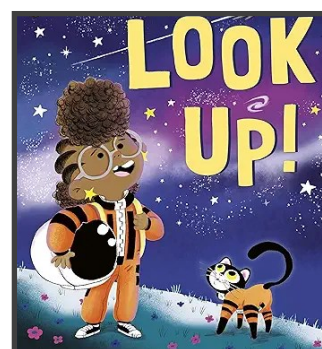
Winning postcards



Postcard competition finalists



Young Musicians Showcase



Cosmic Poetry with the Poetry Group and children from St Mary's School

Dates for your Diary



Community Singing Sunday 22nd October at 3.00pm .

All are welcome, everyone can sing.

We will be singing standard classics including old-time music hall songs and songs from various shows and campfire favourites.

Plus tea and cake and of course, a really good catch-up chat!

Angels and Light Party 28th October 2.00-4.00pm



Come and join us at St Mary's Church North Mymms to chase away the darkness of winter with angels and light. This will be a fun-filled afternoon with activities including decorating your own angel tealight holder; colouring 'stained glass' angels; biscuit decorating; and helping create an angel-themed prayer banner; then join us around the camp fire for a hot dog and a drink. Don't forget your wet-weather clothes for when we are outside. All children must be supervised by an adult throughout the afternoon (particularly when moving outside to the fire pit). Booking is essential as places are limited. Children £4 each to include all craft materials and refreshments. Adults £2 each to include refreshments.

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Annual Memorial Service Sunday 29th October 4.00pm

The service offers the opportunity to remember loved ones particularly those who have died recently. This year the service will be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 29th October starting at 4.00pm. It is a quiet service of hymns, readings and prayers during which names will be read out and candles lit in memory of those who have died in the past year. Tea and cakes are served in St Michael's Room after the service. If you would like your loved ones name mentioned in the service please speak to one of the wardens or church staff, or write their names in the book which will be displayed and available in church on Sunday 8th October. The book will be removed on Thursday 26th October, to prepare the service. We shall automatically include on that list those who have died within the last year and who were connected with St Mary's Parish.





Coffee morning Tuesday 15th November 10am–12 noon



Craft, Bric a Brac, Jams, Cakes, Plants & Secondhand
Books Entry £3 on the door to include
coffee/tea and cake

Raising funds for the church



The **Kings Chamber Orchestra** will be making a welcome return to St Mary's Church on **30th November**. In the afternoon they will be giving a concert for the pupils at St Mary's School and there will be an Evening Concert at **7.00pm**. Tickets £15 (£12 early bird price) for the evening concert can be booked via the church website or by contacting northmymmschurch@btinternet.com



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 8th-10th December "CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD"

Calling all families, individuals, voluntary groups, clubs, schools and businesses - all are welcome to enter a tree in what is always a glittering array of decorated trees in the church. Entry forms can be obtained from

sheila.hoile@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk or the church website

We will be joined by the **Positif Chamber Choir** on the **8th December** for the **Preview Evening**, The concert will be a mix of choir pieces and audience participation. Following the concert which will start at **7.30pm** there will be refreshments in St Michael's Room and a chance to view the wonderful array of decorated trees. Tickets £12 bookable on the church website or contact Sheila Hoile sheila.hoile@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

A lot else going on and still being planned - to keep up to date with what's going on see the website. Come and vote for your favourite tree.

So make sure to put the festival dates in your diary

Dates for your diary

Knitting Group - Thursdays 5th October & 2nd November 10.00am - 12noon

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

Poetry Group - Fridays 27th October & 24th November 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Sunday Club - Sundays 8th & 15th October, 19th November during 9.30am service

Wild Worship Sundays 22nd October & 26th November starting at 2.00pm

Churchyard Tidy Up Party - Saturdays 28th October & 25th November 2.00-4.00pm

Baptisms

6th August

Lucy Rose Healey
Oliver Ralph Healey
Wren Elizabeth Sheriff

13th August

Shereen Eames
Lloyd Smith
Jasmine Archer Lewis

Funerals

10th August

Diane Litherland

11th September

Valerie Mills

Burial of Ashes

10th September

Diane Litherland

13th September

John Flower

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