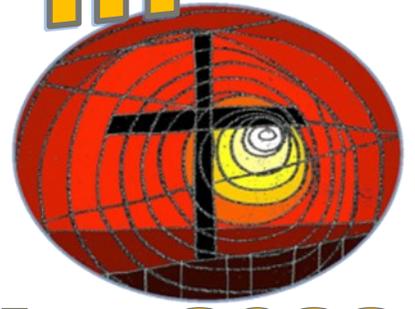




# Keeping in Touch



**April-May 2022**

**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 ...

We are living in turbulent and uncertain times. The sudden outbreak of war waged by Russia on the democratic country of Ukraine has brought this into sharp focus. The pictures in the News of women, children and the elderly who have been forced to leave their homes and flee to safe lands, have been distressing. The accounts of hardship and suffering – civilians targeted by rockets, and missiles, able-bodied men having to part from their loved ones in order to defend their country, have been heart-breaking. And the feeling of being unable to do very much in the face of such unimaginable injustice has left many feeling frustrated and overwhelmingly sad regarding the motives and state of some of humanity. We continue to pray for all people suffering in areas of conflict.



For our Lent studies, we have been examining several themes around justice. Our world is broken in many senses, and we cannot fail but to be aware of the role of humans in causing some of that brokenness. climate change, plastics, animal cruelty, water and food shortages – these are but a few of the current concerns and are areas where many of us are trying, in small ways, to make amends. And we continue to pray and hope, as well as do practical things to bring about justice for people who are hungry, thirsty, denied access to education, and who live in fear and under oppression.

When Jesus came among us, he lived simply, among hungry crowds who had little means to feed themselves; he encountered sick, disfigured people who had no

NHS to fall back on. He lived alongside his fellow people who were ruled by Roman Occupiers who exerted taxes and metered out cruel punishments for troublemakers and law-breakers. The problems the people faced must have felt overpowering. Jesus showed love and compassion wherever he travelled. He fed the hungry, he healed the sick. Jesus gave status to women and children in a society where they were unseen. Jesus challenged those with cruel, unfeeling and inconsiderate views. Jesus loved the poor and the marginalised; he loved those who had made mistakes in life and wanted to try again.

Jesus taught us to love God and to love each other, asking us to show that love through forgiveness, generosity, and self-sacrifice for others. He asks us to take his message of love for all humanity through kindness and by supporting one another, especially during testing times.

To show that he was serious about his Good News message, Jesus died on the cross, something we remember with sadness on Good Friday. But, on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose again, meeting again with his friends, to show that death was not the end and giving us a promise and hope of a future life with God.

When we feel anxious about the future and the problems of the world start to seem overwhelming, Jesus encourages us to pray – for peace, for security, for calmness; to seek forgiveness where we have wronged others, and for the power to resist the temptation to act unfairly towards one another. May we all share in the blessings of the Good News of Easter.



**Keeping in Touch**  
February - March 2022

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 ...**

Do you ever wake up in the morning with a song in your head that you then can't get rid of for the rest of the day? I do too, and when that happens, I like to ponder on why that song in that moment. Perhaps our mood or events going on in our lives influence our 'earworm' songs, but mine mostly seem to be a bizarre random selection of odd tunes selected by a dodgy radio station that you would never willingly stay tuned into. Less frequently, but more significantly, I wake up with a bible passage on my mind, one that then stays with me for weeks and then seems to crop up in conversations or in whatever books I am reading. I have learnt over the years to pay attention whenever this happens, because unlike the earworm tunes that have no purpose, the Lord is usually speaking to me through these 'earworm' bible verses. This is the passage that the Lord has been whispering in my ear for some time:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1*

Each generation that has gone before us has welcomed now life, enjoyed abundance, experienced joy and yet has also known grief, endured hardship and at times felt immense sorrow. Being human invariably means that we will all experience these things (and more) in our lifetime. We enjoy the good times but when more challenging seasons roll in, we can become despondent and perhaps fail to see the possibilities in a new dawn. Yet, this passage invites us to remember that great cloud of witnesses – ordinary people throughout history that the Lord has worked in and through to do extraordinary things – and not only to dare to dream of a brighter future, filled with possibility and hope, but to be people that the Lord will use today to make those dreams and visions a reality here and now.

## Future copies of the Newsletter

Just a gentle reminder that there was a note in the last Newsletter asking you to let us know if you were happy to receive an email copy of the Newsletter. Thank you to those who replied. For those wishing to continue with a paper copy we were asking for a donation of £12 to cover costs. It would be much appreciated if you could let us know your wishes including if you would rather not continue receiving the newsletter. Contact

[sheila.hoile@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.hoile@btinternet.com) or text 07889 254769

## St Mary's Primary School welcomes a new Headteacher



Adrian Petty has been appointed by the governors as the new Headteacher of North Mymms St Mary's Primary School. Adrian has more than 25 years of experience in education, having worked in both the maintained and independent sectors, working with both primary and secondary age groups, and he has spent 14 of those years in school leadership.

Adrian is married and has a young daughter and the family are members of the parish in Northaw and Cuffley, where Adrian is the organist. Adrian is also a Foundation Governor of Northaw Primary School.

Adrian said of his appointment: "I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of North Mymms St Mary's Primary School. The School is a very special community, underpinned by its Christian mission and values, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know everyone and working with pupils, staff, parents and governors after Easter. I also look forward to building stronger links between the School and St Mary's Church."



## Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

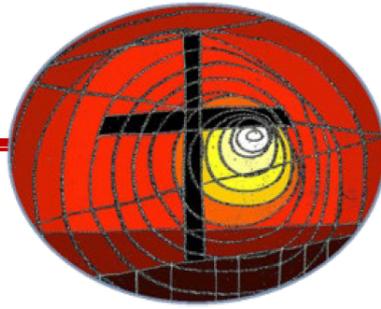


In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger. But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you. Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

**Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope.**

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe

**For more details of how to donate please visit the church website.**



## Services for Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Palm Sunday Service

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April

9.00pm – Online Compline Service  
(using the usual church Zoom code)

Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April

7.00pm Service in church

Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April

1.00pm Reflections around the cross

Easter Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Communion Service in church  
followed by Easter cake and refreshments





# Easter at St Mary's Church

## The Easter Story



Take a walk round the grounds of St Mary's Church to explore the story of Easter on a series of posters and "fun things" to do at each one.



**Open from now until 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**EASTER  
EGG HUNT**

**Tickets (free) for one of four time slots**

If you go down to the Church on Monday April 18th you will find an Easter Egg Hunt taking place. There is a fun opportunity to hunt for and find the hidden eggs. Find 5 eggs, swap them for chocolate eggs and there is even an "eggstra" special egg to discover! Tickets (free) must be prebooked on 'Eventbrite' You can find details and the link to book tickets on the church website: [www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk](http://www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk)

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will be held on **Sunday 15th May at 11.30am** in St Michael's Room 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.

### Baptisms

27th February Rachelle Burford and Harvey Roskilly  
6th March Frankie Max Tocchini-Smith  
13th March William Bertie Knight

### Funerals

6th February Gillian Dewhurst  
17th February Colin Vango  
23rd February Jessie 'Babs' Buckmaster  
3rd March Margaret 'Joy' Munro  
31st March James Hayden Bailey

### Burial of Ashes

6th February Thomas Whatton  
19th February Frederick and Adna Walford

### Contact us

#### Vicar

Rev Ruth Barr  
vicar@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk  
01727 822887  
07447 458526

#### Associate Priest

Rev Penny Thomson  
rev@pennythomson.uk  
07846 429737

#### Office Administrator

Lisa Large  
northmymmschurch@btinternet.com

#### Churchwardens

Martin Ferdinando  
mjferdinando@gmail.com  
01707 260687

#### Gill Peplow

gillpeplow@outlook.com  
01707 272265/07503 176871

#### Safeguarding Officer

Lisa Large 01727 825578  
safeguard@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

[www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk](http://www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk)



@northmymmsstmarys