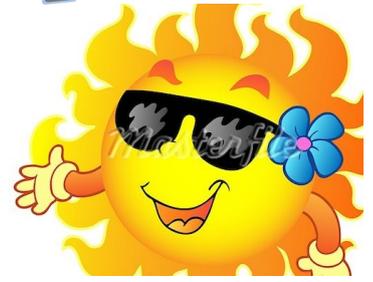




# Keeping in Touch



August-September 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 ...

Change – we've had a lot of changes recently. Most notable, as I write this article, is a change in Prime Minister and with that may come a change in the direction of the government, having a new focus and different priorities. Within our diocese, we have seen a significant change with Bishop Michael, Suffragan Bishop of Hertford, leaving to take up his new appointment as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and we wish him and his family well as he takes up his new role.

With the cost-of-living crisis, we have had to change the way we shop, consider what we buy and how much we are prepared to pay for things. We have had to weigh up and think carefully about what we really need. The change in petrol prices, as well as the Climate Change crisis, have meant that we have had to think twice about journeys we make in our cars.

For some children, a big change is looming, as they finish primary school and the excitement of secondary school beckons. This summer, for many older children, the end of school has taken place, and a change to work, tertiary education, apprenticeships or perhaps travelling, might be coming their way.

We all have to deal with change. Humans are supremely adaptable - we can cope and often flourish and embrace positively all kinds of changes. But for many, change is scary, unpredictable and causes all sorts of anxiety.

When we open the Bible, one of the things we quickly learn about is the unchanging nature of God. The Psalmist tells us: **"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end."** Psalm 102



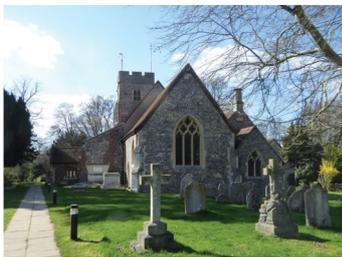
And in the book of the prophet Isaiah we read: **“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” Is 40.8**

Does this matter you might ask? Is it a good or bad thing that God never changes? We can take comfort in believing that God, who created our beautiful world, is unchanging in his love and care for his creation. We might find it reassuring to know that God’s love for us is constant and does not change. No matter what happens, what we do or say, or what we don’t do or say, God still loves us, he understands us, he knows our weaknesses and forgives our shortcomings.

And when the world around us feels perilous with changes we find frightening, it is comforting to know that God remains steadfastly with us: **“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41.10**

When we put our trust in God and allow him to direct our ways and care for us, we do not need to be afraid of change.

The Parish Church of  
St Mary’s North Mymms



We invite you to take part in our  
**Patronage Scheme**

Invest today in the future of St Mary’s Church and  
protect our heritage

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022- 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

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

## Becoming a Patron of St Mary’s Church

The launch of the **Patronage Scheme** which was referred to in the last newsletter is going well. The purpose of the scheme is to provide an opportunity for everyone in North Mymms Parish and beyond to invest in the future of the Church and protect its heritage.

For an annual contribution of £60 you can choose and ‘buy’ a date that is special to you and one which you wish to commemorate. Your name will be placed in the Patrons’ Book and you will receive an annual certificate.

All the funds contributed to the Patronage Scheme will be used to support the overall maintenance, day to day running costs and restoration to the historic fabric of St Mary’s Church which currently amount to £23,574 a year or £65 a day.

If you would like to know more you can pick up a leaflet in church, go to the church website or contact the Church Office.

## Platinum Jubilee Tea

A wonderful occasion when a festively decorated St Michael's Room was packed with people enjoying a fabulous cream tea prepared by Sue Crawley and Lisa Large.



## Teddy Bears' Picnic

On a very warm day in July there were shrieks of joy as knitted teddies were discovered and were found to be brave enough to be taken up the church tower to float down on parachutes – usually more than once!! Picnics were enjoyed and ice cream van did a grand trade. Many thanks to all who made it such a lovely occasion.



## A Summer Serenade

On a very warm summer's evening in July people gathered in a beautifully cool St Mary's Church to be treated to a wonderful programme of seasonal choral music from across the centuries performed by the Positif Chamber Choir directed by Jill Knight and a glass of Pimms and strawberries in the interval. Thank you so much it was a perfect way to spend a summer evening.

## Farewell and God Bless



At the School Service in church on Friday 22nd July we bid farewell to the Year 6 pupils at St Mary's Primary School in Welham Green as they take the next step in life's journey moving on to secondary school in September. Over 200 pupils, staff and parents packed the church for the service which was the first for Adrian Petty as Headteacher and, as it turned out, organist for the hymns. As is the tradition each pupil was given a personalised copy of the bible to take with them. We also bid farewell to a number of staff, wishing them well as they move on to take up new opportunities.

As part of the service pupils from each year shared with the congregation the highlights of their year. Some of these thoughts can be found on the Hope Railings outside the Church and on boards inside the church and St Michael's Room. Do find time to come and take a look as they are bound to inspire and delight.



## Oasis Cafe

The café will be open as usual in St Michael's Room from 2pm-4pm on Wednesdays 10th August and 14th September. It is a open hearted space offering a chance to chat over a cup of coffee or tea. All are welcome so please come and join us and bring someone with you who maybe would not think of coming otherwise.



## Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

On 10th September Martin Wiggs will be embarking on his 24th year exploring the rich variety of churches in Beds and Herts. This year it will be in the London Borough of Barnet the more

urban part of South Herts. Of every £1 we raise in sponsorship 50p is returned to our church and 50p plus gift aid goes to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust which is distributed in the form of grants to local communities struggling to raise funds to carry out vital repairs to their church/chapel. Please support Martin by donating through the Just Giving page [here](#) or via link on the St Mary's Church website or getting in touch with Martin ([mwiggs@talktalk.net](mailto:mwiggs@talktalk.net)) to put your name on his sponsorship form.

## Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots



Our toddler group is having a break for the summer holidays and will start meeting again on Wednesday 7th September and fortnightly thereafter in St Michael's Room on Wednesday mornings from 10.00-11.30am. There are refreshments and time for a chat whilst the children have fun with stories, music crafts and play. Spread the word to families with children to join us

## Harvest Supper - Saturday 1st October

This year our Harvest Supper will be held on

**Saturday 1st October 7.00pm**

in St Michael's Room

Cold Platter (meat, fish or cheese) dessert and coffee/tea

Please bring your own drinks—glasses provided.

**Tickets will be on sale in September**

Available from:-

Sue Crawley [suecrawley@live.co.uk](mailto:suecrawley@live.co.uk)



## Family Service



It has been decided to reintroduce the less formal Family Service for a trial period on the first Sunday of each month . The first Family Service will be on **Sunday 4th September starting at 10.00am.** This will replace the Parish Communion at 09.30am. It will be a chance for people to join us for worship with songs, prayers readings and a talk. If you know of any young families then please encourage them to come.

### Baptisms

5th June Edward Max Frnklin-Smith  
19th June Amelie Anne Sylvaine Hudson

### Weddings

18th June Charlotte Walford and Stuart MacDougall  
23rd July Jessica Topping and Thomas Calnan  
27th July Evangeline Sureshkumar and Peniel Raphael

### Funerals

21st June Beryl Dymond  
28th June Godfrey Holmes  
6th July Margaret Loveland  
18th July John Tracy

### Burial of Ashes

16th June Margaret 'Joy' Munro  
20th June Dora King  
29th June Gillian Dewhirst

### Contact us

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