



Keeping in Touch



June-July 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 ...

The first weekend of June this year marks two significant events. The first of these is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, for which celebration events are being planned in communities across the country. Opportunities to meet friends old and new and bring communities together.



This is the first time that any British monarch has celebrated a Platinum Jubilee, and after 70 years on the throne very few of us will even be able to remember anything other than living in Elizabethan times.

The Queen's reign has been marked by almost unimaginable changes in society and in the world. Her coronation was credited with kickstarting the television age, now screens are just about everywhere. Her first Christmas broadcast in 1952 was only on the radio, her latest in 2021 could be watched on Tik Tok or heard on Amazon Alexa.

The Queen has been a constant presence in an ever changing world and it is testament to her humility and service that, though scandals may have rocked her family and a great number of her governments, the Queen herself remains an inspiration to many.

Though the majority of her coronation was shown on television, there was one moment that was deemed too sacred to broadcast (even that is an decision that you can't imagine television executives making today). This was the moment when the symbols of her status – the crimson robe, the diamond diadem, the coronation necklace – were removed, and the Archbishop of Canterbury anointed the new Queen with holy oil.

The Queen has spoken since of how this moment was the most significant one of her life, as in humility she was dedicated to a life of service and called to follow the example of Jesus who himself gave his life for others.

It is fitting then that the other significant celebration taking place on the first weekend in June is the feast of Pentecost. This is when we remember the gift of God's Holy Spirit to the Church, that Spirit of love and service which binds all people together and fills each and every one of us with the guiding presence of God.

The early Christians, after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, dedicated their lives to one another. As the Acts of the Apostles puts it, "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them."

However you choose to celebrate the jubilee weekend, may we all be inspired – whether by the Holy Spirit, by the many years of humble service of her Majesty the Queen, or both – to dedicate our lives to the service of our fellow humans, in our own communities and around the world.

You are invited to become Patron of St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church is about to launch a **Patronage Scheme** which will provide an opportunity for everyone in North Mymms Parish and beyond to invest in the future of the Church and protect its heritage. The scheme is for everyone who wishes to see St Mary's Church remain as a well-maintained, warm and welcoming building serving the community of North Mymms for many generations to come.

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.

Easter at St Mary's Church



Easter Saturday
Lighting the Pascal Candle
from the fire



Easter Trail ending
at the empty tomb



Easter flowers in
church as beautiful
as always.
Many thanks to
the flower team



Easter Egg Hunt
Over 100 children and their
families were welcomed by
Ruth and Penny, met the
Easter Rabbit. found the
knitted eggs around the
churchyard, exchanged them
for chocolate ones and finally
enjoyed a lovely ice-cream





Back by popular
demand
**Teddy Bears'
Picnic**

Come and join in the fun at
St Mary's Church on

Sunday 10th July 2.00-5.00pm

**Bring your own teddies and a picnic tea and
join us as we celebrate all things "teddy".**

TICKETS can be obtained from Eventbrite
Details on the church website
www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

A Summer Serenade

Join us in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside for a
programme of seasonal choral music from across the
centuries performed by the

Positif Chamber Choir

directed by Jill Knight

7pm, Saturday 16th July 2022

Admission by ticket - contact the Parish Office

tel: 01727 825578 or e-mail: northmymmschurch@btinternet.com

Adults £10, concessions and students £5 -

includes interval refreshments

Meet our new churchwardens

On 15th May at the Annual Vestry Meeting the St Mary's Church community elected two new churchwardens, Marion Freeman and Rupert Lee.

Marion Freeman



I have lived in Welham Green on and off for well over 50 years, living at my present address for nearly 30. During that time I attended St Mary's Church from time to time and was baptised here as a young child, but it was not until Christmas 2019 that my faith was truly rekindled. I felt so welcomed and had an overwhelming feeling of what can best be described as coming home, if that makes sense. I was confirmed in February 2020 just before the start of the lockdown. Since then I have become more involved with the activities of St Mary's when restrictions were lifted. With my professional career of nursing coming to its end with my retirement in May of this year I felt the time was right for me to take on a new challenge and volunteer for the vacant post of Churchwarden. I feel very privileged to hold this post and will try my best to support Rev. Ruth and Rev. Penny and the team in any way I am able to. I am very much looking forward to promoting and helping develop the life of the church in our community so that people of all ages may come to feel the strength, beauty and love here at St Mary's, one of my very favourite places.

Rupert Lee



When Ruth asked me if I would like to be the next churchwarden, I was at first rather alarmed at the idea. Judging from the way Martin and Gill had been doing the job, it seemed like you had to let it take over your whole life! But in reality, it's more flexible than that. I think I am very well positioned to take on the role, but on the understanding that I will not be trying to do absolutely everything myself (and neither, I hope, will Marion). Broadly, the churchwarden's role is to make the vicar's job as easy as possible, but I will not hesitate to call on willing volunteers to help out with this.

About myself: I have been a regular worshipper at St. Mary's ever since Helen and I came to live in the parish, over twenty years ago. I have always found it to be the sort of church where I feel perfectly at home. When our children were younger, and I was working full-time at the British Library, my weekends got filled up and I was not able to come to church as often as I would have liked; but now the children have grown up and I have retired, I can attend services much more regularly. This is why I am now able to sing in the choir on a regular basis, instead of just occasionally as in the past.

However, I do not have unlimited time on my hands. Helen and I have plenty to keep us both busy: such as, helping to manage 45 acres of ancient woodland near Bayford, which belongs to Helen's family; and providing any support needed for Helen's mother, who is now ninety - still healthy and active. but at her age she can't do everything.

....and heartfelt thanks to Martin and Gill



On 15th May Martin Ferdinando and Gill Peplow stepped down from their role as churchwardens. They have both served the church community above and beyond anything in their job description. They have seen us through a vacancy and a pandemic and we couldn't let them go without a heartfelt vote of thanks and a few mementos of their time including a framed and engraved painting of St Mary's Church, dinner and garden vouchers and a lovely potted plant.

Baptisms

22nd May Saoirse Molly McMahon

Weddings

30th April Victoria Martin and Wayne Britten

5th May Jade Bainbridge and Daniel Sharkey

Funerals

5th April Eileen Winifred Jones

26th April David Michael Watts

27th April Colin Dean

18th May June Proctor

31st May Thomas Farmer

Burial of Ashes

14th May Alison Lawrence

21st May Raymond and Daphne Bryant

21st May Avril Brauns

Contact us

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