



Keeping in Touch



August - September 2021

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 ...

In our last Newsletter Rev Ruth asked: "Are we *there yet?*" I'm pleased to say: "Yes we *are!*" Although there are some caveats and we should not be complacent or naïve so as not to recognise that, as we head towards the colder months, some restrictions on our way of living may yet be re-imposed.



But for now - it is Summer! A time for sunshine, more care-free days, beaches, fish and chip suppers and ice creams. For some lucky people, the prospect of a holiday is now very tangible.

It seems that Jesus did not take a traditional holiday as such, but he often took breaks away from the demands, the hustle and bustle and frenzy that was frequently going on around him. Jesus seemed to love a mountain-break – going off by himself to solitary places where he could rest and recuperate, listen to God his Father speak, freed from the noise of the eager crowds and even from his trusted friends, his apostles. And Jesus loved a break by the Sea of Galilee too - walking on sandy shores, beside a sparkly sea, waves crashing gently, glorious, fantastic red-gold evening sunsets. One of my favourite stories about Jesus is of his post-resurrection Bar-B-Q picnic on the shore of Lake Galilee, when he surprised his friends with a breakfast of warm bread and fish. "*Come and eat with me*" he said (John 21). And they all sat down together on the sand, around a fire. There was no teaching or instruction – words were not required. They were simply present to one another, Jesus with his friends.

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Our lives can be busy and full of clutter which can leave us feeling quite exhausted, run ragged and weary. Jesus invites each of us to come and eat with him, to rest awhile with him. Rest doesn't necessarily have to mean inactivity, but rather rest with Jesus can mean feeling calm, peaceful, and enjoying the refreshment of our souls which comes from being with the one who loves us so much.

So, over the Summer can I invite you to take some time to enjoy nature – the woods, fields, streams, lakes, mountains, beaches, gardens. Listen, look, smell, feel, taste the good things given to us in God's beautiful Creation. And while you are doing this, quietly ask Jesus to come and join you. Sit, walk, lie down in his presence, feel his peace wash over you, embrace his restoring power. Just be with Jesus –and allow him to lift you up and fill you with his joy and peace.

I pray that you have a blessed Summer.
Rev Penny

News



On Sunday 27th June there was a special celebration in church when our Churchwardens, Gill and Martin were sworn into their office and commenced (continued!!) their duties and tea and cakes were served after the service for the first time for well over a year. It was a joyous occasion.



A Confirmation Service was held on 29th June at St John's Church Hilltop Hatfield. Among those confirmed by Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Hertford, were Ellen Murphy, seen here with her mum, Marion Freeman and Peace Iheonu, a pupil at St Mary's Primary School. We hold them both in our prayers as they start the next chapter of their Christian journey..



The next Confirmation Service will be at St Etheldreda's on 28th September. If you are thinking about becoming confirmed then please let Rev Ruth know.



We are delighted to welcome a new addition to the church family and a potential new member of the choir! Pippa Jackson was born on 1st July, a daughter to Richard and Ellie and sister for Rosie. Our congratulations, love and best wishes to all the family.

Teddy Bear's Picnic

On a lovely sunny afternoon in July teddies hiding in the churchyard were found and bravely agreed to have parachutes attached so that they could be launched from the church tower, to float down and land safely to be collected and loved by their new owners. Families brought picnics and the ice cream van did a roaring trade. It was a wonderfully joyous afternoon thanks to the hard work of a lot of people both before and on the day. Here are some images of the day taken by Jane Russell.



Byron and John, Tower Team, & Lisa



Revs Penny & Ruth at Welcome Table



Looking for teddies



Teddy found!



Choosing a parachute



On their way down!



All eyes aloft



Waiting to pick up teddy



Picnic Time



Ice Cream Time



Playtime



Mr Teddy and Teresa Travell



Mission Action Planning

Turning ideas into reality - we need your help!!

Over the past few months the Mission Action Planning Group have been discussing some exciting new outreach activities. These are now at the point of becoming a reality but will depend on everyone's commitment and support in order that they can thrive. Please give prayerful consideration as to where you could offer support for one or more of these exciting opportunities to serve the community and let Revs Ruth and Penny, Lisa, Martin or Gill know.

Café Oasis



The plans for our Café for those who have been bereaved at any time, or who are lonely, are progressing well. It has been decided to call it Café Oasis – this is a Team wide name for similar Cafés—we are Oasis North Mymms. The Café will be open on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 2pm-4pm, starting hopefully on Sept 8th. Starting with a monthly meeting will make the Café sustainable in terms of those helping—the frequency will be kept under review



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Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots

Our toddler group is to be renamed Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots and is planned to relaunch in St Michael's Room in the Autumn Term on Wednesday mornings 10.00am-11.30am. If you would like to get involved please be aware that you will need to have/get DBS check which Lisa Large can organise for you.

Wild Worship



The MAP Team is also exploring the idea of Outdoor Church also known as Forest Church, Muddy Church etc. We are hoping to run a family-friendly event either once a month or once a term for about an hour and will probably be held on a weekend afternoon or evening. This is a family gathering, focused on children as well as adults, learning about God through nature and creation finishing around the fire pit as we approach winter.

Dates for your Diary



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

On **11th September** Martin Wiggs is taking up the Bike 'n Hike Challenge continuing his exploration of the churches in central and north Bedfordshire.

Bike 'n Hike is organised by the Beds and Herts

Historic Churches Trust. Please support Martin by donating through the Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/northmymmsstmarys> or getting in touch with Martin (mwiggs@talktalk.net) to ask for your name to be added to his sponsorship form.

Harvest Supper - Saturday 2nd October

This year our Harvest Supper will be held on

Saturday 2nd 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

Price £10

Available from:-

Sue Crawley suecrawley@live.co.uk



It's Back!! - by popular demand St Mary's Church will be holding its fifth **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** during the weekend of **3rd-5th December 2021**

The theme this year is **"LET'S CELEBRATE"**

We are looking forward to inviting you all whether you are a family, individual, local schools, organisations, shops or businesses to take part and enter a tree.

To register your interest contact Sheila Hoile (sheila.hoile@btinternet.com)

We are delighted to announce that we will be joined by the **CELEBRATION CHOIR** (members of the St Albans Bach Choir) at the **Preview Evening** on **Friday 3rd December**. . More details in due course.

So make sure to put the festival dates in your diary and help us celebrate after what has been a very tough year for everybody.

In Loving Memory



Julie Cox lived in Welham Green with her husband Philip and married at St Mary's. They have two grown up children Victoria and Elliott. Julie was a member of the Potters Bar Theatre company for many years as well as a performer at the North Mymms Memorial Hall. She has many friends and through that she was introduced to the St Mary's Choir and joined a few years ago. She was a lady full of adventure, loved performing and of course loved colour. She will be greatly missed by us all and be forever in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.

Baptisms

6th June Delilah Iris Lovell
18th July Elsie Willow Coleman

Weddings

3rd July Melissa Rodrigues and Faraz Rafik
10th July Gisela Bothelho and John Amabilino
15th July Roseanna Petrovic and Thivyan Thayaparan

Funerals

28th June Richard Berridge
17th July Patricia Bennett
21st July Richard Alan Carr

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