



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:



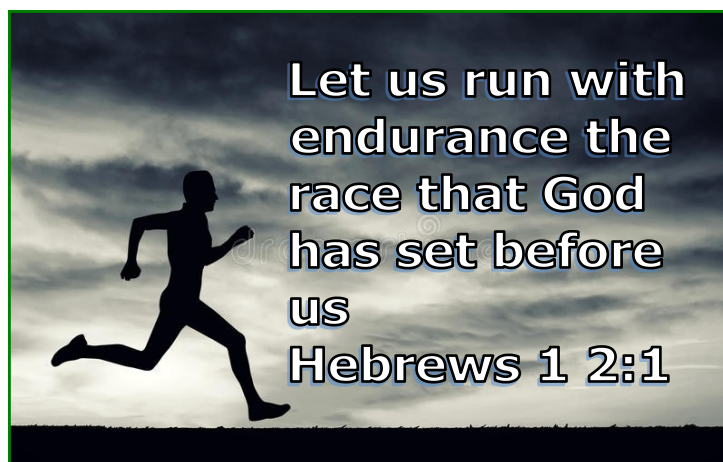
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" Hebrews 12:1

Each generation that has gone before us has welcomed new 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.

We just need to shake off all that holds us back from seeing and believing and then step forward at pace into the future that the Lord has prepared for us.

I am certainly not naïve about the challenges that we face this year, both as individuals and as a church, and yet these words from the letter to the Hebrews is surely just the encouragement that we need in such a time as this. So, whatever is going on in your life right now, hear the Lord whispering these words to you and with faith, prayer and a good sense of humour let's run together with perseverance the race marked out for us as God's family here in the parish of St Mary's, North Mymms, and look forward to how the Lord will bless us - and others through us - in the months and years to come.

Blessings, Ruth



News

Garden of Remembrance



The memorial area which was originally constructed nearly 20 years ago had been suffering from rot and needed to be rebuilt. The previous construction held water and wood was standing on the earth and had become completely water logged. The work has been completed with the new fully treated timber now standing on brick. The plaques have been re-set into the new wood. Cost of this repair was £2264, but this rebuilt structure is constructed in a more resilient way. If you would like to help with the cost of the re-

pair, maybe in remembrance of a loved one please visit. [https://](https://www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk/giving.html)

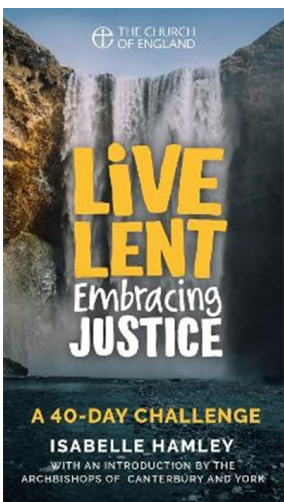
www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk/giving.html Just a reminder that, being in a churchyard, the memorial is subject to churchyard regulations and regrettably artificial flowers and trinkets are not permitted. We ask you to please respect this requirement.



We need you!

For the past few years St Mary's finances have been running at a deficit which has meant the church has had to use its ever dwindling reserves to balance the books. In common with many other organisations, charities and businesses the church's financial position was seriously affected by a lack of income over the past two years to the point that the situation is now critical. A small group met to discuss ways in which the church could increase its income and reduce expenditure. There were some exciting ideas which will bring in some much needed income and, also, if not more importantly, raise awareness of our beautiful church, the people who worship here and our church vision. People are going to take the ideas away and explore possibilities and plans over the coming weeks. To make them a reality we are going to need your

- **Time** - to help develop and deliver these ideas and perhaps come up with some of your own. This is going to need to be a massive team effort but also great fun and very rewarding.
- **Talents** - this is not the time to hide your light under a bushel. There will be ways in which everyone can contribute to make this a success. We look forward to sharing our ideas with you and hearing if you have any of your own.
- **Treasures** - a conservative estimate is that the church needs at least an additional £20,000 a year to meet its obligations, running costs and existing outreach. If we are to grow as a church then clearly we need more than this. So please consider prayerfully if there are ways in which you might be able to give regularly or, if you already do, if there is the possibility of increasing the amount, however small, that you give.



Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4.24).

For each day of Lent, this booklet for adults offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge. Each week follows a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all.

Copies of the book will be available at the church during Lent

Christmas at St Mary's



Carol concert with the Celebration Choir



Christmas Wreath decoration



Storytelling with Ellen



Visitors favourite tree by Abby Wadham



The Walk to Bethlehem



Beautifully decorated church



Hands On Day Care Centre meet Father Christmas



Coffee Pots & Tiny Tots make Christingles

Snowdrop Sunday

13th February
2pm—4.30pm

You are invited to come and enjoy the snowdrops in our beautiful, tranquil churchyard and join us for a cup of tea or coffee, a slice of cake and a chat.



Lenten Lunches will start on Monday 7th March and then every Monday in Lent until 11th April in St Michael's Room at 12.30pm. It is a simple lunch of soup and bread for which you will be invited to donate what you would normally expect to spend on lunch. All proceeds to Christian Aid.



Community Singing

Delighted to announce that next gathering of this very popular event will take place on **Sunday 20th March 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. Plus tea and cake and of course, a really good catch-up chat!



Knitting and Craft Group

We are going to begin our group again on Thursday 3rd February from 10 to 12 in the morning. During lockdown we continued to make squares into blankets for Herts Young Homeless and we made 20 + blankets which was a tremendous achievement for all so well done to everyone. We are continuing to knit squares for blankets and we are also hoping to develop some craft activities so that every-

one can come along and join in. We have, during lockdown, been making various displays to put on the railings outside the Church and we will continue to develop and make these in the future, so all ideas are welcome. Please do come and join us either to help with activities or just for a cup of tea and cake.

Dates for your diary, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May.

Gill Peplow

Appointing new headteacher for St Mary's School



The governors at St Mary's Primary School are in the process of appointing a new Head Teacher when Mrs Melidoro leaves at Easter to join a new school. Please pray for those who might be considering applying, those who are looking at the applications and on the interview panel, those who will then be shortlisted, and then those who will go forward for interview.

The governors are looking for someone who has an active and living faith in God who will lead St Mary's school in faith, partnering with the church as Helen has done for the past 3 years. Please also pray for Helen in her new role

Baptisms

23rd January	Leonardo and Oliver Diviani
30th January	Pippa Jackson

Funerals

8th December	Gillian Dewhurst
30th December	Thomas Whatton
30th December	Fred Bier
11th January	Andrea Verrall
29th January	Margaret Cottrell

Burial of Ashes

26th January	John Lambert
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