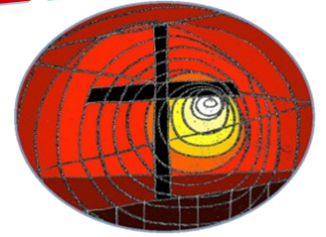




Keeping in Touch



April-May 2025

St Mary's North Mymms is an outward looking church, caring for all age groups and helping the local community to experience God's love and grow in faith

Rev Ruth writes ...

The Hope of Easter: A Message for St Mary's, North Mymms

As we journey through the season of Lent and approach Easter Sunday, our hearts are drawn once again to the profound hope that lies at the heart of our Christian faith. Easter is a time of renewal, a moment to rejoice in the victory of life over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair. It is the defining moment in our faith, where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.



At St Mary's, North Mymms, Easter is not just a historical remembrance; it is a living and breathing reality that continues to shape our lives today. In a world that often seems troubled by uncertainty, pain, and division, the message of the empty tomb brings reassurance that God's love is unshakeable. Jesus' victory over death is a promise that we, too, are invited into a life of everlasting joy and peace in Him.

The resurrection is more than a symbol; it is a guarantee of God's power to transform, renew, and redeem. Through Jesus' sacrifice, we are offered new beginnings, fresh hope, and a deep sense of belonging. This is why our faith in Him matters - it is the anchor that holds us firm through life's storms. In moments of doubt, suffering, or loneliness, Easter reminds us that we are never abandoned, for Christ is always with us.

Cont'd.....

The church plays a vital role in keeping this hope alive. St Mary's is more than just an 800-year-old building; it is a family of believers who support, encourage, and uplift one another. It is a place where we can bring our burdens, celebrate our joys, and grow in our relationship with God. Faith in Jesus unites us, giving us the strength to love and serve our community in His name.

This Easter, we invite you to embrace the joy of the resurrection fully. Whether you are a lifelong member of our church or someone seeking a renewed connection with faith, know that you are always welcome here. Join us for our Easter services, where we will come together to worship, give thanks, and rejoice in the greatest gift ever given - eternal life through Jesus Christ.

May this Easter bring you peace, hope, and a deeper understanding of God's incredible love for you. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Lent Giving

During the season of Lent, people often give things up like tea, coffee, alcohol or chocolate. More recently there has been a call during Lent to instead do something positive instead like phoning, visiting or writing a letter to someone, particularly someone who might be lonely or have limited social contacts.

This Lent we launched the idea of giving food to our local Foodbank. The Twelve Apostles Church in Kentish Lane has been running a Foodbank for local people since lockdown. Recipients are referred by GPs, by church ministers, schools and other similar agencies. The food parcels are bagged up once a week and delivered directly to the recipients. We have decided to collect tins and dry goods and toiletries on Sunday using the labelled plastic box which can be found in St Mary's Church and the donations will be blessed before being taken to the Twelve Apostles Church for distribution. There is also have a collection of food at the Welham Green Book Swap if you cannot bring your gifts to church and they need bags for life to pack the food parcels in. The Foodbank would be grateful for anyone who is available on a Wednesday around lunch-time to pack the bags and also people to help with deliveries. We are so grateful that when the appeal went out a few weeks ago, we immediately had three volunteers to help with deliveries.

Please consider giving generously to this our Lent appeal. If you would like any more details or would like to volunteer for packing or deliveries, please contact me:

penny.thomson@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Spring at St Mary's

We welcomed Spring at St Mary's with a weekend of events celebrating the arrival of the snowdrops in the churchyard. There was an Art Workshop run by Janet Peck, a local artist, and a concert of Music to Welcome Spring given by Bella Cora. Both were well attended and much enjoyed, as were the snowdrops.



The theme of snowdrops was continued at Wild Worship where bird feeders were made, snowdrops observed and drawn and popcorn popped and eaten



In March we had our Spring Coffee Morning with Bric a Brac, books and produce for sale. Thanks to Lisa for all the organisation, everyone who helped make it a success and all those who came in support.





Over the last few months, we have been trying out a new style of worship at our All-age services which are held on the first Sunday of each month. Café Churches are springing up all over the country as people enjoy an alternative and more informal way to discover something about God and to engage with Bible stories, as well as pray for others and ourselves.

Our Café Church starts from 9.30am in our Parish Room: St Michael's Room where we provide free tea, coffee and donuts or pastries, and there is lots of chatting, laughing and catching up on the week. The Service then begins at 10am with the songs we sing and the spoken responses projected onto a screen. The service style is informal and we use recordings of the songs to sing along to. This year we are exploring some of the great stories found in the Bible Old Testament, stories such as Creation, Noah's Ark, Moses in the Bullrushes and so on. There is plenty of congregation participation if you want to join in and the service often includes an activity which engages with our artistic skills.



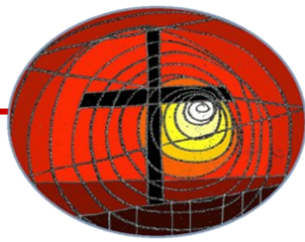
Noah's Ark—a rainbow of hands

This act of worship is designed for all ages to enjoy: the children often play whilst listening on the play mats or dance to the music but there is also a serious message conveyed about how God loves us and wants to be a part of our lives. Recently, someone who came for the first time told me that they had not been convinced when hearing about Café Church; but they loved it and is now a convert to the occasional Café Style of worship. We would love to see you there - please consider giving Café Church a try.

Knitting Group News



Our brilliant knitting group have been busy again. Here is a photo of them handing over another set of blankets to Herts Young Homeless. They have also been busy knitting small cuddly toys which wait on the south aisle seats for new owners with all proceeds going to church funds, eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt and teddies for the Teddy Bears' Picnic. Thank You.



Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 13th April	9.30am Palm Sunday Service
Maundy Thursday 17th April	5.30pm Fish & Chip Supper (Prebook) 6.30pm Service in church
Good Friday 18th April	12.00pm-1.00pm Good Friday Reflections
Easter Eve 19th April	7.30pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 20 April	9.30am Communion Service in church followed by Easter cake and refreshments



Monday 21st April

Come and join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Hunt for knitted Easter eggs in our churchyard. Find five and exchange them for a chocolate egg. There will be free juice for children and refreshments available to purchase. If there is inclement weather, we have a wet-weather plan in place for activities in the church. This event is free but booking is essential. All children must be accompanied by an adult, but only children need tickets available from Ticketsource on church website. There are four timed slots to choose from at 2.00pm, 2.30pm, 3.00pm and 3.30pm.



VE Day commemorates the end of
World War II in Europe

St Mary's Church North Mymms AL9 7TN
will be Celebrating VE Day
with an Afternoon Cream Tea on
Saturday 3rd May 2025 at 2pm.

We will also have **Kathryn Price** the Collection Coordinator of the British Museum giving us a presentation talk on the Amber Tankard currently held in the British Museum.

Tickets are £18.00

Last day to order tickets 26th April for catering purposes



© The Trustees of the British Museum. Shared under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0\) licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

ELECTORAL ROLL RENEWAL

This year the St Mary's Church Electoral Roll has to be completely renewed. This means that, even if you are on the current Electoral Roll, you need to re-apply to be added to the new one. You must do this before **30th April**, to be allowed to vote at this year's APCM on 18th May. If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll, we would encourage you to join it. Forms to complete will be available at the church (with a post box available on Sundays). To find out more please speak to Victoria Sinclair Crake or Rev'd Ruth, or email victoria.sinclair.crake@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

will be held on **Sunday 18th May** at **11.30am** 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.

Dates for your diary

Knitting Group - Thursdays 3rd April, 1st & 15th May 10.00am - 12noon

Sewing Group - Thursdays 10th April and 8th May 10.00am-1.00pm.

Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots - Every Wednesday in term time 10.00am - 11.30am

Poetry Group - Fridays 25th April and 23rd May 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Sunday Club - 13th April and 11th & 18th May
9.30am during Parish Communion

Wild Worship - Sundays 27th April and 25th May 2.30pm

Churchyard Tidy Up Party Saturdays 26th April and 31st May 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Baptisms

23rd March

Shaun MacKintosh

Funerals

4th March

David Harding

Burial of Ashes

6th February

Wendy Stevens

22nd February

Roy Bacon

Contact us

Vicar

Rev Ruth Barr

vicar@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

01727 822887

07447 458526

Associate Priest

Rev Penny Thomson

penny.thomson@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

07846 429737

Curate

Rev Sara Head

sara.head@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Office Administrator

Lisa Large

mail@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Churchwardens

Rupert Lee

rupert.lee@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Gill Peplow

gill.peplow@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Lisa Large 01727 825578

safeguard@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk



Find us on
Facebook

@northmymmsstmarys