



# Keeping in Touch

October-November 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 Ruth writes ...

When musing about this article, the following words rolled around my head, from a children's song brought out at this time of year. I wonder if you can read the words without singing them aloud?

Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green  
Strawberries are sweeter than any I've seen  
Beetroots purple and onions white  
All grow steadily day and night.  
The apples are ripe and the plums are red  
The broad beans are sleeping in their blankety bed



Other various verses follow, all celebrating the good things which we grow and enjoy. This is just one of many hymns that are sung in schools and churches at this time of year, when we look beyond ourselves and think of Harvest. However, many of us are less connected to the earth and cycle of growing our own foods when we have easy availability of frozen food, ready-meals, and fast food, but for a short season we can remember that what we enjoy has been sown, grown and then harvested. Although nowadays there is less home-grown produce given, we still bring tinned goods and packets of food into church to symbolically say thank-you to the Lord for ALL that he has provided for us. Food and toiletries, then taken to the local Food Bank to be redistributed to those in greater need, but this gesture that we have made is really a token one. On the whole, here in this area, we are blessed with so much of everything, and stockpile staples, and household items, 'just in case.' We are rarely in a position of complete dependence on others for our sustenance and yet it would be good to take a moment and remember the

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Bible verse, James 1 verse 17: *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* We think of the fact that the Lord has entrusted this world to us and we need to reflect on how we have neglected to care for it. We have clogged up the seas with our waste, we use intensive farming and harmful pesticides to get the most out of the crops but often at the expense of the wildlife. How many species have become extinct even in our lifetime? What part can you play in reclaiming the earth as God intended it and helping the ecology; that is the study of all living organisms and their physical surroundings? Small changes to our habits can have a huge effect on our environments and the cost is mostly in making a conscious choice to make a difference. Here are some ideas:

- 😊 Take showers instead of baths – save water
- 😊 Eat local produce
- 😊 Reduce your food waste
- 😊 Recycle & Reuse everything
- 😊 Repair rather than buy new
- 😊 Walk or cycle where possible
- 😊 Share lifts with others
- 😊 Find ways to donate items (Freecycle/Marketplace)
- 😊 Use long lasting light bulbs
- 😊 Create a compost pile
- 😊 Use recyclable cups.

I would love to hear what other ideas you have to help our planet.  
May the Lord bless you in this Harvest season and in the months to come.

## News



### Blankets for Herts Young Homeless

On Sunday 5th September St Mary's were pleased to join friends at St Etheldreda's Church for a BBQ celebration and to give our completed knitted blankets along with those from St Etheldreda's to Herts Young Homeless. Caroline Neill from HYH was delighted to receive the blankets on behalf of the charity. Well done to everyone involved.



The **Oasis Café** opened its doors at St Mary's Church for the first time on Wednesday 8th September with a warm welcome, cup of tea or coffee, a chat and a chance to meet with others for a time of fellowship. The Café will be open on the second Wednesday of every month from 2.00-4.00pm. **Dates coming up are 13th October, 10th November and 8th December.**

Maybe you are recently bereaved, lonely or just want to meet others and chat? If so we look forward to seeing you.

## **Bishop's Hatfield Team Ministry explore the the theme of church and community development**



On Saturday 11th September Bishop Michael with the clergy and members of the Parochial Church Councils from each of the churches in the Bishop's Hatfield Team Ministry, met together at St Mary's. A very inspiring and thought provoking meeting as we all plan for the

future. The team explored what is known as Asset Based Church Development with a representative of Tearfund a Christian international aid and development agency. They work globally to end poverty and injustice, and to restore dignity and hope in some of the world's poorest communities.



## **Confirmation**

On Sunday 28th September two members of the St Mary's congregation were confirmed by Bishop Stephen Venner at a service in St Etheldreda's Church taking on the vows that were made on their behalf at their baptism.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard Jackson and Callum Tilley as they each embark on the next stage of their Christian journey.



# Dates for your Diary



Delighted to announce that the very popular

**Community Singing** will return on

**Sunday 17th October 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!



## Angels and Light Party 30th October 3.00-5.00pm

Food, fun & the opportunity for all ages to join us as we banish the darkness that often surrounds us at this time of year, when we focus on angels and light instead. We will be hearing

stories told around the fire, eating hot dogs, drinking hot chocolate, playing 'pin the halo' on the angel, making our own glass lanterns & angels to take home, decorating swords, as angels are warriors, sent to protect us.

**BUT:** we only have a limited number of places so book early to avoid disappointment.

**Tickets needed this time for children & adults via Eventbrite—link can be found on church website.**

## Annual Memorial Service Sunday 30th October 4.00pm

The service offers the opportunity to remember loved ones particularly those who have died recently. This year the service will be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 30th October starting at **4.00pm**. It is a quiet service of hymns, readings and prayers during which names will be read out and candles lit in memory of those who have died in the past year. Tea and cakes are served in St Michael's Room after the service.



# Music @ St Mary's



After a year of no concerts KCO re-unite in person together with their director Gerard Le Feuvre, for a

special performance in their inimitable style. Outstanding music with pause to reflect on these unprecedented times, and rise beyond them. Not to be missed. The orchestra will be with us for two concerts on **Sunday 21st November**—a family one at **3pm** and an

evening one at **7.30pm**. For details of tickets and how to book please take a look at the church website.



## Christmas Tree Festival Preview Evening Concert



We are delighted to announce that the Celebration Choir will be joining us at the **Christmas Tree Festival Preview Evening on 3rd December**. The Choir are all members of the highly acclaimed St Albans Bach Choir. The concert will be a mix of choir pieces and audience participation. Following the concert which will start at **7.30pm** there will be refreshments in St Michael's Room and a chance to view the wonderful array of decorated trees.

Tickets £15 - contact [sheila.hoile@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.hoile@btinternet.com)

# Christmas Tree Festival



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 3rd-5th December "LET'S CELEBRATE"

Still time to enter a tree - all are welcome to contribute to what is always a glittering array of decorated trees in the church. Entry forms can be obtained from [sheila.hoile@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.hoile@btinternet.com)

Lots going on and still being planned - to keep up to date with what's going on see the website. Concerts, storytelling, refreshments, craft and produce stalls. Come and vote for your favourite tree.

**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**

## We Need Your Help



**Turning ideas into reality -  
come and join us!!**

As you can see from this newsletter there is a lot going on as we roll out our Mission Action Plan and reach out to our local community.

There are so many ways that you can help that there is something for everyone. For ideas go to the website and look under "Volunteering". Please give your prayerful consideration as to where you could offer your support and let Rev Ruth, Rev Penny, Martin or Gill know. We look forward to welcoming you as a member of Team St Mary's.

### Baptisms

21<sup>st</sup> August Sonny Sid Sadler and Bertie Michael Sadler

### Weddings

14th August Meelee Thi and James Finch

21st August Nicola Woolmer and Scott Pincher

Kim Amer and Barry Sadler (Wedding Blessing)

4th September Jade Barrell and Aaron Martin

10th September Lucy Byrne and Craig Read

Deesha Patel and Daniel Elahi (Wedding Blessing)

### Funerals

3rd August Julie Cox

17th August Alan Clark

### Burial of Ashes

4th August Walter & Joyce Sheridan

8th August Julie Cox and Patricia Chown

19th August Patricia Bennett

### Contact us

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