



Keeping in Touch

October 2020



Rev'd Penny writes

At this time of year our thoughts often turn to the harvest. We are so grateful for God's good and abundant provision to us and give thanks that we do not have to go hungry or thirsty. We are thankful too for our farmers and other food providers, who carefully manage the resources in their care, in order that the harvest might be so bountiful.



Jesus told a story about a wealthy man whose land produced such an abundance of crops that he ran out of room to store his surplus produce. So, he decided to build for himself a bigger warehouse, and then he could eat and drink and party, free from any worries about his future (or anyone else's future for that matter). God wept for the lack of compassion shown by this man to his family and his neighbours. That night, the wealthy man died, and all his hoarded, stored-up goods were left behind, now to be enjoyed by someone else. God called him a fool.

Jesus told us not to worry about our life – what we eat and drink and wear, which is sound advice for a stress-free life, especially for those who have ample resources to fall back on. But recently, on account of Covid, some people have found themselves in different, unpredicted situations, maybe on a reduced income with very little money to support themselves or their dependants, or maybe worse, with no paid employment. It somehow doesn't feel right to tell people in these straightened circumstances just to simply trust God and all will be well.

Cont'd

But then again, maybe we should believe and say this. We, you and I, are God's ears, eyes, hands and feet here in this world. If we are willing, we have the means to be a part of God's answer to provide for those in need, the hungry and thirsty. Rather than storing up more goods, wealth, belongings, pasta, toilet rolls and so on in our barns, we are encouraged by God to show our heart of generosity to those who find themselves in less fortunate positions than ourselves.

Sometimes we really want to help God care for others but don't know where to start. Harvest Festival celebrations offer us an opportunity to be those helping hands. At St Mary's we are collecting toiletries, tins of meat, fruit and custard for the Hatfield Foodbank (not pasta please!) Donations can be brought to church on any Sunday in October and will be delivered to the Foodbank. And for those not planning to come to church, we might consider making a definite decision to put an item in the Foodbank Collection basket at the local supermarket, or even visiting the Foodbank to deliver donations in person?

God has provided all our wants to be supplied, the harvest is safely gathered, there is food to eat in our homes and we are thankful. May we strive to be wise in our stewardship of all that we have been entrusted with, and generous with our giving to others in response to God's many blessings to us.

We did it!!!



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

With grateful thanks to all of you who sponsored Peter, Sheila, Martin and Christine we are delighted to be able to report that we have beaten last year's total of £500 for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Latest total, with a few more donations to collect is £550. Half of that comes straight to St Mary's to help towards essential repair and maintenance. The church is also able to apply to the trust for grants. Between us, on a lovely sunny day in September, we visited over 30 churches in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. It was a journey of discovery finding corners of the diocese not visited before and an intention to go back for more.

Thank you



Harvest donations will continue throughout October.

We are collecting items such as toiletries, tins of meat, fruit and custard for the Hatfield Foodbank. Donations can be brought to church, left in the porch and will be delivered to the Foodbank. For those not planning to come to church why not put an item in the Foodbank Collection basket at the local supermarket?

All Souls Service Sunday 1st November



The annual All Souls Service is much appreciated by all those who have lost and wish to remember loved ones. Sadly current government restrictions severely limit the number of people that can be accommodated in church and so the difficult decision has been made that this year Revs Ruth and Penny will conduct the service in church without a congregation. The service will be pre-recorded and made available online. The focus of the service will be to remember and pray for loved ones including those whose funerals and burial of ashes have taken place since last November. Information as to how to access to the service will be emailed to everyone on the church email list and available on the church website. One of the highlights of the service is the lighting of candles which are then placed on the altar so the suggestion is that you light a candle at 4.00pm on Sunday 1st November and put it in the window perhaps with this short prayer

“Loving God be with me on this special day of remembering. Thank you for all those who have shaped our lives but whom we no longer see. Help us to remember them well and trust that they are at peace with you. Amen”

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

As with many other things the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday have had to take into account current government restrictions. On Sunday 8th November there will be a 9.30am Communion Service in church followed by a short service down at the war memorial where numbers attending will need to be severely limited. The arrangements for the service have been discussed and agreed with the Royal British Legion and the North Mymms Parish Council.



A Note from Robin and Sam Elgar

Dear All at St Mary's Church

Sam and I are settling in to life at Great Kingshill. It still feels strange and not quite like home! Of course COVID doesn't help. Most mornings we walk across the cricket pitch to the village shop to get our paper and bits and pieces. We managed to watch a couple of cricket matches before the season ended, now all is quiet!

We've attended some Sunday services at the local church. The church stands in parkland below Disraeli's house at Hughenden Valley. Very beautiful and not unlike St Mary's Church.

Life at the moment still revolves around house hunting before the housing market collapses. I can't wait to find the house we can call home and to create a garden!

Sam returns to Welham Green for band practice at the Memorial Hall most Tuesdays.

We both send lots of love to you all

Keep safe! Robin and Sam xx

Wedding - Please keep them in your prayers as they start their new life together
19th Sept Amanda Parker and Paul Andrews

Burial of Ashes

10th Sept Alderman Bill Storey
24th Sept Susan Lambert
26th Sept Peter Hesketh
28th Sept Nancy Thom

Funerals

29th Sept Audrey Simmons

Contact us

Vicar

Rev Ruth Barr
ruthbarr77@gmail.com
01727 822887
07447 458526

Associate Priest

Rev Penny Thomson
rev@pennythomson.uk
07846 429737

Office Administrator

Lisa Large
northmymmschurch@btinternet.com

Churchwardens

Martin Ferdinando
mjferdinando@gmail.com
01707 260687

Gill Peplow

gillpeplow@outlook.com
01707 272265/07503 176871

Please note

Parish Office closed until further notice

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Find us on
 Facebook @northmymmsstmarys