



Keeping in Touch



September 2020

Rev'd Ruth writes

When we look back to all that has happened in history, and in our own lifetimes, I am sure that without exception we can all agree that 2020 will be considered the most extraordinary year. At the time of year when people would usually be planning and packing for their summer holidays, this year instead sees many places returning to lockdown and restricted travel. For others, this year has highlighted financial worries and uncertainty of work or regular wages, so the idea of a holiday has been thwarted.



Usually at this time we would hear children outside and laughing as they filled their summer holiday time, making the 6-week break from school stretch as far as possible before they had to don their new shoes and uniform again. But this year it all seems very quiet. Playground areas are banned, visits to friends' houses are frowned on, and those who plan a day trip to the beach are scorned. It's all too dangerous. There are too many unknowns, too much uncertainty, too much confusion of what is actually allowed today, let alone tomorrow, and did we get it right yesterday? People I do meet (safely and with my mask on, of course) are very tired.

As a minister I am very aware of the huge emotional toll that has been wrought by the pandemic, probably heightened by the fact that we don't have an end date for all this upheaval to every aspect of our lives. I would like to encourage each one of you reading this to sit somewhere quietly, take a deep breath, to lay all your thoughts to one side, to stop all your busyness and rest.

Firstly, Matthew 11 verse 28 says; "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus invites us to be with Him, to talk to Him about how we feel and to then let go of our weariness.

Secondly, Psalm 46 verse 10 says; "Be still and know that I am God." Words to encourage us to look to the Lord through all that we are facing. And the find rest

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in Him, complete rest, in our body, our mind and in our spirit. This means us giving of ourselves in every aspect of who we are and letting God deal with it.

Thirdly and probably the most familiar of verses in Psalm 23; "Because the Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing that I am lacking. He allows me to rest in verdant fields and leads me to quiet pools of water. He gives me new strength." What amazing promises to hold onto. When you feel things or situations or people making you tense, ask the Lord to take you out of your current space and lead you to still waters. Imagine yourself sitting down and dipping your toes in the cool pool. Ask Him to sit alongside you and talk to Him. Give Him time to reply.

And remember to breathe deeply and often.



Farewell and thank you

Sadly after 44 years Sam and Robin Elgar have decided the time is right to move on to pastures new and leave North Mymms. How do start to say Thank You to Sam and Robin who have played such a massive role in the life of St Mary's Church and the village community? As members of the teaching profession they have enriched the education of hundreds of children most of them now with children of their own. Once retired they continued to contribute to the life of St Mary's School and are remembered there with much affection. Running the Sunday school, children's workshops, the beautiful Christmas friezes and, latterly, the hugely successful adult art workshops are all down to Robin's commitment and creativity. Sam's musical talent has been the much appreciated accompaniment to services and social gatherings over the years.

Sam and Robin have donated a beautiful collage of pen and ink drawings of the church and churchyard done by the Art Workshop which will hang in St Michael's Room.

Sam and Robin we will miss you. Our love and blessings go with you as you take the next step on your journey.





Last year *Bike 'n Hike* raised almost £100,000 for the upkeep of ancient churches & chapels in Beds and Herts. St Mary's raised over £500, the second highest in Welwyn Hatfield. St Mary's can once again benefit from this fundraising event although it will be very different this year due to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Of every £1 that we raise by sponsorship, 50p is returned to our church. 50p plus any gift aid goes to the Trust which is distributed, in the form of grants to local communities struggling to raise funds for vital repairs to their church/chapel. Our continued support of Bike'n Hike

will underpin any application for a grant.

You can now use your car to get to the areas chosen and visit some lovely churches and areas of the two counties you may not have visited before. So please put the date in your diary now! – **12th September 2020.**

Peter and Sheila Hoile and Martin Wiggs will be taking up the challenge again this year. Following last year's fascinating trip around East Hertfordshire Peter and Sheila have decided to explore the west of the county this year. Martin is still considering his options. Please support Peter, Sheila and Martin by donating through the Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmarysnorthmymms> or getting in touch to ask for your name to be added to the sponsorship form.

With our church being closed our income is very much reduced and there are several ongoing essential maintenance projects which will involve substantial costs. If you would like to participate or like to know more about the Bike 'n Hike please contact Martin Wiggs for further information (mwiggs@talktalk.net) or visit the website www.b-n-h.co.uk

We need your Time Talents and Treasures!!!



The Bike 'n Hike is one way in which we can raise much needed funds for the repair and maintenance of St Mary's Church along with enhancing the church's outreach and mission. So if you have any ideas as to how we might raise funds or would like to be part of a fundraising team then please contact Rev Ruth or the Churchwardens.

At this time, more than ever, it is important to plan for the future - Living God's Love, so that God's kingdom might grow in the world.



Hello! My name is Rev Dr Penny Thomson and on Sunday 13th September, I am very much looking forward to being licensed by Bishop Michael, to the Parish of St Mary's Church, North Mymms, as a self-supporting Associate Priest. I met many lovely, kind, welcoming people when I spent some time on placement at St Mary's earlier this year, but I am really excited to be joining you and becoming a full member of the worshipping community,

especially as I live in Brookmans Park and St Mary's is my Parish Church. I am married to David who is a Reader at my sending church: King Charles the Martyr, in Potters Bar. We have five children, two of whom are married, two grandchildren and we are expecting our third grandchild to arrive on Christmas Eve! We also have a mad five year old cavapoo called Buddy whom I like to walk regularly at Gobions Open Space.

Although I am joining you during this strange lock-down time, I do hope that after my licensing, I will gradually get to meet as many of you as possible – either as we worship together in church or on Zoom, as well as visiting in person – I love tea and cakes – that is when we are allowed to start visiting once more!

I would love to see you and for you to come and support me at my licensing, which will take place during the Sunday morning service, at 9.30am on Sunday 13th September. God bless you Penny

Sadly over the past few months, although we haven't been able to hold weddings or baptisms there have been a number of funerals and burials of ashes.

15th July	Melvin Martin	2nd August	Pamela Green
18th July	Sheila Barnard	8th August	Delyth Poore
21st July	Iris Hart	12th August	Enid Ruddom
23rd July	Valerie Carmody	13th August	Dora King
30th July	Lilian Sherriff		

Contact us

Vicar

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

Office Administrator

Lisa Large
northmymmschurch@btinternet.com
Parish Office closed until further notice

Churchwardens

Martin Ferdinando
m.ferdinando@virgin.net
01707 260687

Gill Peplow
gillpeplow@outlook.com
01707 272265/07503 176871

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk



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Facebook @northmymmsstmarys