

Christmas Newsletter

December 2022/January 2023



**St Mary's, Rushden &
St Peter's, Newton Bromswold**

Who's Who

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Tom writes . . .



Greetings for this Christmas season,

In observing our time of Advent, once again we remember that, as Christians, we are looking forward to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. We anticipate his return to bring restoration, peace and justice to a world that sorely needs them. Advent is a time to recommit ourselves to seeing these things grow in our own lives, working to bring them about in our workplaces and homes. For many of us, cost-of-living increases are exposing the injustices of the world much more clearly.

Therefore, if we see people struggling mentally, financially, or emotionally, any of us then have the opportunity to act as Christ did, in helping those who could not help themselves.

If we ourselves are the ones beset with problems then we remember at Christmas the first time Christ came among humanity, as one of us. In doing so he displays God's ongoing care for all who face struggles. We can be grateful to God that he did not merely leave us to our own devices, to injustice and greed born of the desire always to have our own way. Instead, Jesus came first to restore a relationship between humanity and God, a relationship founded in the promise of hope of God's goodness. Even when we face difficulties and the sorrow that the world brings our way, we can remember that God came to share that with us, to understand it from the inside out. The angels sang the glory of God on the first Christmas because God himself offered, and continues to offer humans, us, a way out from darkness, a way back to himself.

Leading on from Christmas then, with the beginning of a new year, we are following the light of Jesus into whatever may come. In Jesus God promises peace, so we pray and ask for his help in whatever we face this year, confident that because of Jesus, he will answer us.

Going forward into the new year, you will also have noticed a change to the format of this newsletter. This is because it has come time for Jude, the compiler and editor of Grapevine, to step down from this role. As yet we do not have anyone to take up those tasks in her stead and so this newsletter will be produced in its place. We do, however, want to take this opportunity to thank Jude for all her hard work and dedication to the

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production of Grapevine over the last eighteen years. Especially over the recent difficult times of lockdowns and other Covid restrictions, we know that Grapevine has provided a valuable resource and connection for many people around St Mary's parish and beyond. So, thank you Jude for your ministry and service.

For the whole family of St Mary's church this year, we are still engaged in the process of prayer and discernment that we began in September. We are seeking to listen for and understand God's vocation for St Mary's at this time, as we enter a new phase of mission and ministry. If you believe that from your own prayers you have something to contribute to this discernment, please do let someone from the leadership know. Come what may I look forward to seeing God unfold his purpose, in and through us, as we seek to work out our faith in practical ways, and continue to worship God together for the joy it is to know him. Every blessing, Tom

Flower Rotas

Behind the Communion Table **December 2022**

- 4 Marion Bates
- 11 Rita Nutter [in memory of Alice and arr by Ellen Inwood]
- 18, 25 & 1 Jan Christmas Flowers

January 2023

- 8 Ann Harris
- 15 Barbara Coxon
- 22 Rita Nutter [in memory of Keith & arr by Ellen Inwood]
- 29 Mary Hadley

Memorial Chapel - January 2023

- 8 Marion Bates
- 15 Mrs Kelland in memory of her husband
- 29 Gerald & Alice in memory of Fred & Elsie Bass

If you would like to give flowers in memory of loved ones please contact Brenda Dixon: 01933 358982

THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Sunday 23 October

Esmee Daisy Latham
Rory James Latham

WEDDINGS

Saturday 8 October

Eleanor May McKenzie &
Nathan Adrian Miller

Saturday 22 October

Robert Joseph Woolgar &
Danielle Ivy Wingate

FUNERALS

Wednesday 26 October

Constance Dorothy Wood [86]

Monday 7 November

Edwin David Lett [81]

St Mary's News

Summary of PCC Meeting held on Monday 7 November 2022

We had 22 members at the meeting that ended at 9.10pm. The post of Administrator will be advertised shortly and so free up Tom's time to concentrate on his ministry at St Mary's.

Church finances were discussed, and all agreed that this is a critical time for us. We need to continue with faith decisions during this discernment period.

It was agreed that Linnet and Glyn will be Assistant Priests and sit on the PCC ex officio.

The Teaching Series will continue until December 4 and restart after the Christmas break on January 15 2023, for 6 weeks on The Holy Spirit and Us. Following that, from 26 February for 6 weeks as a Lent course teaching will continue on 'Jesus, the Spirit and Sacrifice.'

Fabric matters included upper hall being fixed on November 8, and the South Porch is nearing conclusion, wi-fi installation in all our church buildings, electrical remedial repairs and work continuing and signage for Rev Tom's contact and details to be actioned.

Mission Tithes will be spread amongst recipients as last year. A new project, Warm Spaces, is to

include St Mary's on a Tuesday/Thursday. More details to follow.

This is the last call for a volunteer to replace Jude and her fantastic role as editor/producer of Grapevine!

Hall Hire rates have increased for the first time since 2011 from £16 per hour to £20 per hour.

Date of next PCC meeting in the Lower Vestry Hall on **Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Jennie Bone

Crafts and Coffee/Tea

The next meeting is on Tuesday 6 December. More information on p11.

Children's Society

John's new quiz 'Animal Kingdom' is now on sale at £1. Available from Mary, Pam, Anne, the Church Office and Joy [01933 318415]. Thank you to everyone who buys this quiz in support of the society.

Congratulations... !

... to **Cathy Calder, Peter Trenchard and Michael Hadley**, who have all recently reached their **Eightieth Birthdays**, and to **Carole Padley** who joins them in January. With the love and best wishes of all at St Mary's.

Choir Coffee Morning - Saturday December 10: More info on p10.

Newton News

The Church was decorated lovely for **Harvest Festival** back in October. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated produce for Harvest and to the volunteers who helped decorate the Church or those volunteers who transported the produce from the Church to The Swan.

Thank you to everyone who supported **The Harvest Sale**, which raised £441 for Church Funds. A special thanks to Mike and Sam, the landlords at The Swan, for hosting the evening and to Rev Glyn Ackerley for acting as auctioneer and to Rev Tom King for assisting.

Churchyard

At the **Churchyard Forum**, which was held in the Bede House on 9 November, Newton Churchyard was awarded a **Gold Award**.

Comments from the judges were as follows:

Such a profusion of native plants in flower with the yellows of cowslips and celandines in dominance with smaller patches of Yellow Archangel and Goldilocks Buttercup.

Others on display were the many fritillaries and an area of dainty wood anemones and a

good range of native & non-native trees and shrubs.

The cowslips and Snakes-head Fritillaries were a little early this year but made a splendid Spring display for the Easter Weekend. This annual event allows visitors to appreciate the value of Churchyards for wildlife conservation and provides an opportunity for those from other parishes to share ideas and advice gained from the dedicated care and labours over many years.

Helen Lines



Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads or male carers and their younger children [0-6 yrs]. Children enjoy a range of toys including bouncy castle, sit-on cars and inflatable ball pool.

**Saturdays 17 December
& 21 January 2023**

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £5; children free

Looking Forwards

This is my final “parish magazine” letter as your bishop. I’ve been writing such pieces since I became a vicar almost forty years ago, and I’ll miss that joyful task. I’ll miss the people I write to even more. Over forty-six and a half years of ordained ministry, almost thirteen of them here in Peterborough, I have worked with many people in many contexts, and made many friends. I am grateful to this diocese for making me welcome and letting me have a part in the great ministry here. I will take a lot of good memories with me.

But (and I expect you could feel a “but” coming) my leaving should not be about looking back, but we should all be looking forwards to what is next in God’s plan for us. Whenever I write a December letter, I get some flack for giving more space to Advent than to Christmas, so (not wishing to disappoint the critics) I am doing the same again now. Advent, at the start of the Church’s year, and setting the tone for the whole year, points us forwards rather than backwards. That is the Christian direction of travel.

As I write, we are getting ready for our three-yearly ministers’ conference (the last one was five years ago, but covid caused two postponements). It will be over before you read this. I will certainly miss those wonderful gatherings of around three hundred clergy and lay

ministers sharing together for the best part of a week. The previous three which I have led for this diocese have had as their themes, *Joy*

in Ministry, Building the Church, and *Sent by Jesus*. This time, avoiding any backwards look, I have chosen *Rejoice in Hope* as the title, with studies and talks on the great Bible theme of Hope.

Hope is about putting our trust in Jesus for the future: looking joyfully to him, his wonderful promises, and his perfect plan. It is about his coming, his kingdom, the fullness of his salvation. It is about living for him, rising with him, being glorified in him.

Dear friends: my prayer is that we all rejoice in hope, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, this Advent, into Christmas, the New Year, and beyond.

God bless you

+Donald
Bishop of Peterborough



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Mission Matters

Mission Financial Update

At this time of the year, we like to inform you of all the contributions St Mary's has made to our Mission Partners at home and abroad. We give a 10% tithe of our Church's General Income which means this year we will distribute over £11,700 to our five mission partners:

25% to CPAS

20% to Tearfund

25% to CMS - to support our new Mission partners Lea and Petra Williams for their work in Brno, Czech Republic.

15% to Langham Partnership

15% to Church Army

We also supported: CPAS Falcon Camps; Tearfund to support the Horn of Africa; Church Army to support the Ty Bronna Project.

We had Tom and Jemma Fifield from SIM UK talking to us about their work in Ethiopia during our Sunday services. We also had a very enjoyable bring and share lunch afterwards. The Mission Quiz sheets at a cost of £1 each, are being distributed by email and in person after our services. The Harvest collection raised £158.03 which was donated to Tearfund. On Behalf of the Mission Committee, we would like to thank everyone for their prayerful support and financial donations throughout the year.

Martin Compton

"All change?"

Last time I sent my "Mission Matters" article to Jude for Grapevine I didn't realise that it was for the last time! Such is life. Changes come, anticipated or "out of the blue". Thank you, every one of you who has read "Mission Matters" over the years, and prayed, convinced of the truth of the title's pun, that mission really does matter.

Our mission partners will continue to value your love and prayerful support in the days to come. A list of those with whom we are linked can be found on our church website, www.stmaryschurchrushden.org and the mission committee hopes to share news of them there from time to time.

Thankfully, not everything changes! The Bible reassures us that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We still have a wonderful Gospel to share! May we continue to play our part in making Him known both here at home, and further afield. Every blessing,

Sue Eagles,
for The Mission Committee

*Live & Give
Responsibly . . .*



Belfry Gossip

We mostly continue to ring on six of our bells for Sunday service, although we can often ring all eight bells on a practice night with the help of visitors - thank you all. Kaylee is making great progress into ringing other methods now and is doing extremely well.

We recently had the privilege of ringing for the funeral of Dorothy Wood, who used to be a bellringer some years ago and has her name on a peal board in Woodford church.

We have also just rung the bells half-muffled for the Remembrance Sunday service, followed in the afternoon with a quarter peal dedicated to Remembrance.

The Wellingborough Branch has had ringing meetings at Mears Ashby (6 bells) and Moulton (12) since last time, and the postponed outing to four towers in Bedfordshire is being rearranged to take place in November.

The Guild Summer Festival and 8-bell striking competition took place at Uppingham in Rutland at the end of September. Teams from 5 branches took part in the 8-bell competition which was judged by Helena and James Thorpe. The band from the Wellingborough Branch, which consisted of 5 ringers from the Rushden band plus 3 from other towers, were declared the winners followed by the branch bands from Daventry, Towcester, Rutland and Kettering. The Trophy is currently in our tower and will rotate during the year to the towers of the other band members. Well done Wellingborough Branch.

Tintinnabulum

Solution to grapevine October Crossword 392

Z	A	C	C	H	A	E	U	S	B	E		
I	R	O	A	H	E	R	O	D				
P	E	E	B	L	E	S	E	O	D			
P	T	Y		T	I	M	O	T	H	Y		
O	V	E	R	L	I	E			H			
R			A	O	R	T	A	E	A			
A	D	V	E	N	T		R	U	B	R	I	C
H	U		D	A	V	I	D		C			
		L				E	P	I	S	T	L	E
J	U	G	G	L	E	R	E	E	S			
O	A	Y		G	E	N	E	S	I	S		
H	I	T	O	N		E	C	S	E			
N	E		N	U	R	S	E	M	A	I	D	



Church Diary

Late November

- 26 **Saturday: 9.30am-3.30pm – Christmas Craft Day.** Open to all primary school aged children. Join us for a day packed with crafting, cookery, games and exploring the Christmas story. For more details contact Helen on 07495 304974, hlsimcock@gmail.com
- Saturday: Rushden Lights Switch On** - The Salvation Army band are inviting singers from all Churches to come and sing carols to worship the Lord in Rushden High Street. **The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30pm, followed by carol singing.**
- 27 **Advent Sunday: 11.15** - Join us for a Service of praise with readings and carols for Advent.

December

- 4 **Sunday: 6.30-9.00pm - Last of the current Teaching Series** in the Church Hall
- 6 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee** in the Church Hall. The activity is **Christmas Lanterns** - further info from Lynne on 01933 353655
- 8 **Thursday: 7.30pm - Prayer, Praise & Presence**
- 10 **Saturday: 10.00-12 noon - Choir Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. Entrance fee £3 [children free] includes coffee/tea and mince pie. Stalls and carol singing and meet your friends. Everyone welcome.
- 17 **Saturday: 9.30-12 noon - Who Let The Dads Out - Church Hall.** Monthly event for dads, step-dads, granddads, male carers and their younger children [0-6 years]. Adults £5 - children free.
- 18 **Sunday: 6.30-9.00pm - Teaching Series** in the Church Hall

January

- 3 **Tuesday: 10.00-12 noon - Crafts & Coffee** in the Church Hall.
- 6, 13, 20, 27 **Sunday: 6.30-9.00pm - Teaching Series** in the Church Hall
- 9 **Monday: 7.00pm - PCC meeting** in the Lower Vestry Hall
- 15 **Sunday: 6.30-9.00pm - New Teaching Series** in the Church Hall: "The Holy Spirit & Us"
- 21 **Saturday: 9.30-12 noon - Who Let The Dads Out - Church Hall.** Monthly event for dads, step-dads, granddads, male carers and their younger children [0-6 years]. Adults £5 - children free.
- 22 **Sunday: 6.30-9.00pm - New Teaching Series** in the Church Hall: "The Holy Spirit & Us"

Services for January 2023

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 1 January - Sunday after Christmas - New Year's Day

10.30am All Age Service with Carols

10.00am Family Service

Sunday 8 January - Baptism of Christ/First Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am All Age Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

11.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday 15 January - Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am All Age & Parade Service

10.00am Morning Prayer

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 22 January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am All Age Service

10.00am Holy Communion

11.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday 29 January - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am All Age Service

10.00am Morning Prayer

11.15am Morning Prayer

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays January 5, 12, 19, 26

at 10.30am - Holy Communion [BCP]

This initial edition of a Newsletter for St Mary's and Newton is free of charge: however if you would like to contribute towards production costs please put cash into the old Grapevine slot by the Hymn Books in St Mary's Church.



Services for December 2022

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 4 December - Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am	All Age Holy Communion	10.00am	Family Service
11.15am	Morning Prayer		

Sunday 11 December - Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	All Age Service	10.00am	Children's Carol Service with the Parable Puppets
11.15am	Morning Prayer		

Sunday 18 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Nativity Service		
11.15am	Holy Communion	10.00am	Family Service
6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight		

Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve

11.00pm	Holy Communion	6.00pm	Carol Service
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Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day

10.00am	All Age Joint Service Followed by a short ...	9.00am	Christmas Holy Communion
10.45am	... Service of Holy Communion		

Services for January 2023 on page 11

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 10.30am - Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

St Mary's Sunday Services at 9.30 will continue to be live-streamed and can also be found later through our website on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden>.