

Late Spring Newsletter

April & May 2023

“Rise, heart, thy Lord is risen”

George Herbert



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

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*Items for the
June/July Newsletter
should be sent by
Sunday 14 May
to
**St Mary's Church Office as
shown above***



Tom writes . . .



Greetings once again during this Lenten season.
And for Easter: Hallelujah!

Having written about the conflation of Epiphany, Lent and Easter in the last Newsletter I now find myself facing up to Lent, Easter and, indeed, Pentecost at the same time. On the face of things, these are very different topics. Ordinarily we would work our way through the process of these seasons because the passage of time helps us to mark the transition from penitence to celebration. Yet to speak of them together recognises that we observe Lent as a means of *ordering* time, and not because it reflects the end of the matter.

Observing Lent – focussing on our nature as sinful human beings, devoid of goodness on our own merit – does not mean the resurrection of Jesus has ceased to be sufficient. However, celebrating Easter – as we are wont to do every day as Christians, and certainly every Sunday as we gather as the church – does not mean we can avoid remaining in a sinful and broken world.

Many generations of Christians have come and gone since Jesus rose from the dead. Throughout that time some have made the focus of faith Jesus' suffering, obedience, and sorrow – to the point of denying joy and the power of forgiveness and freedom. Others have made that focus the exuberant, extravagant excitement and triumph that the resurrection reveals. We do, of course, need an awareness of both.

Our sin is sometimes seen most clearly for what it is, not in acts of great evil, but in small choices where all such evil begins – the insidious conviction of our own righteousness, and the desire for our own will, not God's, to prevail.

Lent is a season to recall our sin and our need of God's grace and forgiveness at every level of our lives. The glorious truth of Easter is that the Lord's death is sufficient! It is through God's own sacrifice, the death of Jesus and not our own, that we may come into this freedom. Jesus' resurrection declares that the consequences of our sin have been met in his own Person. Jesus has made a way out of darkness, into God's marvellous light, that we might live with him always. Happy Easter! Tom

St Mary's News

Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 7.00pm

20 members attended. **Minutes of the January 9 meeting** were approved, with some minor amendments. Matters arising included updates on risk assessments progress and Stewardship Sunday outcomes.

Accounts were presented, discussed and agreed.

Our energy bill commitments were discussed and a working group set up to consider the future of our investments.

One **safeguarding issue** had been raised and resolved. A reminder was made to PCC members that a DBS is required for all.

South Porch Door is almost complete; **repair to lift** is being actioned, as well as our **noticeboard** on the main road.

We plan to participate in **Party in the Park on Saturday July 8.**

Discussion around baptism took place and will be debated further at our **Away Day on May 20**, as well as discipleship, evangelism, prayer and hospitality.

The administrator role should be resolved very shortly.

A recent **Food Standards visit** resulted in a poor report which is being addressed.

Date to note:

APCM: Sunday 16 April following a joint 10.30 service and a bring and shared lunch. Please contact Helen Smedley regarding offers of items for lunch. *JB*

Council of Churches

Good Friday United Service - 7 April
This gathering of all churches will be held at St Mary's at 9.30am.

Rushden Party in the Park. We have decided to offer a prayer tent at the event, which will be run by the Council of Churches, in addition to any stalls run by local churches. All Ministers are to find suitable volunteers for this prayer ministry within their own church. All volunteers will need to have a valid DBS check. We will offer a prayer training session prior to the event which all participants will need to attend. Martin Compton is the point of contact for anyone who would like to volunteer.

Pentecost [28 May]: The United Pentecost service will go ahead on Pentecost Sunday evening. A speaker from Open Doors (a Christian charity supporting the persecuted church) has been invited

Flower Rotas

Behind the Communion Table

April

- 2 Lent - no flowers
- 9 Church decorated for Easter
- 16 Marion Bates
- 23 Ann Firm [on behalf of Ruby Wilmer]
- 30 Mary Hadley

May

- 7 John & Hilary Bettles [arr by Jude Curtis]
- 14 Paula Williams
- 21 Jude Curtis
- 28 Susan Collins [arr by Ann Harris]

Memorial Chapel

April

- 9 Mrs Brenda Dixon
- 30 Mrs Julie West

May

- 23 Mrs Kelland and Mr Craddick in memory of Mr and Mrs Craddick

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

to speak. The service will be held at Park Road Baptist Church.

Congratulations are due to . . .

... **Hubert Dickens** who turns 100 on April 9; **Brenda Dixon** who is 80 on 14 May and **Gill Coles** who is 70 on 17 April. With the love and best wishes of all at St Mary's.

the Registers

Funerals

Tuesday 24 January

James David Jenney [73]

Tuesday 14 February

Laura Evelyn Tunn [101]

Interment of Ashes

Thursday 2 March

Laura Evelyn Tunn

Children's Society Quiz

A reminder that John's Winter Quiz 'Animal Kingdom' is due in at the end of April. A new Summer Quiz entitled 'The Phrase Game' will be available from **Sunday 21 May** from Anne Riley, Pam Bailey (Church Office), Mary Hadley and Joy Holloway.

Crafts and Coffee/Tea

The next meetings are on **Tuesday 4 April and 2 May**. For further information contact Lynne: 353655 or lynne@lateralflow.co.uk.

With much sadness we mark the loss of **Ruth Webster, Janet Presland and Don Merrifield** since the last Newsletter. We thank the Lord for their individual contributions to the life of our Church over the years, confident that they are now at peace with our Father God.

Continued overleaf

Crafts and Coffee/Tea

The next meetings are on **Tuesday 4 April and 2 May**. For further information contact Lynne: 353655 or lynne@lateralflow.co.uk.

T&C (Tea and Chat)

Come and join us on any **Thursday morning** in the large hall between 10.00am and 12noon. We are a group of friendly volunteers who will serve you with refreshments and homemade cakes.

This is also an opportunity to chat and make new friends. Everyone will be made very welcome.

Hospitality is a 'Gift of the Spirit' and our aim is to serve with love in Jesus' name.

Jean Bass, Welcome Team



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

15 April & 20 May

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £5: children free

Newton News

Flowers

April

9 Easter Sunday

Mrs Sargent

23 Mrs Dangerfield

May

7 Rosemary Coulson &

Abby Stannard

14 Mrs Hollis

21 Mrs Turner

28 Mrs Burt

The Christingle Service held on the **29 January 2023** raised £113.57 for **The Children's Society**.

Quiz Night held on **Saturday 4 March** raised £205 for the **Friends of Newton Church**. Thank you for your support.

Cowslip and Fritillary Day will be held on **Easter Monday 10 April**

from 1.00 to 4.00pm. Afternoon Teas will be served. Plants for Sale.



A Barn Dance will be on **Saturday 15 July** starting at 7.00pm with Kelly's Eye. Tickets cost Adults £12.50 and Children £5. For tickets please email friendsofNB@yahoo.com or ring June on 07703 476689.

We are an Easter people – and Alleluia is our song!

Some of us may be better than others in fasting during Lent. For some shaping the liturgical mood of our services to mark the contrast with Easter involves a kind of fast – subdued colours, no flowers, restrained hymns – and most especially not using the word “Alleluia” until the first celebration of the resurrection. This might sound a bit fussy and contrived but the eruption of sound at the Cathedral’s Easter Vigil, as we move from darkness to light, with the organ thundering, bells ringing and the Choir in full voice singing Alleluia is an astonishingly powerful and thrilling moment.

Of course, the first Easter wasn’t a moment of celebration. Numbed by grief, fearful for their own lives, it caught Jesus’ friends by surprise. Mary Magdalene and her companions, Peter and John and Thomas; for all that Jesus had taught, the news of his rising left them bewildered, uncertain, even afraid.

It’s easy for us to get stuck in a sense of failure, defeat and denial. There is little to lighten our mood in a world torn apart by violence, with people struggling to make ends meet, against a backdrop of climate change and fears for the environment. Meanwhile our beloved Church is not only struggling to connect with the communities it serves, but finds itself preoccupied with internal (I nearly said eternal) debates over prayers for same-sex couples.

But it is into this world and this Church - the world as it truly is - that the good news of Jesus Christ comes. His saving death, his bursting from the tomb; this changes everything, and once we take a

moment to reflect on it, brings Alleluia to our lips. For if all the powers of darkness could not silence God’s Son, nor extinguish



the light of Christ, what have we to fear?

The seventeenth century poet George Herbert - himself no stranger to anxiety and depression - writes exultantly about his experience of Easter in words brilliantly set to music by Vaughn Williams in his *Five Mystical Songs*. If you don’t know the piece why not look it up – and as you do let Alleluias resound in your heart:

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.
Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand,
that thou likewise

With him mayst rise:
That as his life calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold,
and much more just.

Every blessing

Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

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Mission Matters

CHURCH
ARMY

Church Army - "Faith shared in words and actions."

In 1882, the Rev Wilson Carlile founded Church Army to minister to the needy inhabitants of the Westminster slums. Now, in 2023, its members' vision is still the same - to share the Good News of Jesus in words and actions.

It's good to hear that our Mission Partner, James Hawksworth, is encouraged in his ministry as Pioneer Evangelist in the Suffolk Centre of Mission in Ipswich. A group of 15-20 young people, who have no background in Christianity, are continuing to meet every week at "Kintsugi Café", and some of them meet again on a Sunday evening. Although, as yet, not all would say that they are Christians they are seriously exploring the faith.

A further encouragement is that the local college, Suffolk One, has allowed James to run lunch clubs and wellbeing spaces for the students. James says, "I love this type of work! Bringing people together in a supportive, caring way that encourages healing and wholeness. Isn't this Jesus all over, isn't this the type of community he sought!"

Please pray that God will continue his work in the lives of these young people, and that he will give James further opportunities to share the Gospel in words and actions in Ipswich.

Every blessing, *Sue Eagles*



Belfry Gossip

At our Tower AGM - as well as receiving reports of last year's activities and electing officers for this year - we discussed our aims for 2023. We shall continue to support the Branch and Guild meetings throughout the year, and ring quarter peals for notable occasions, including the Coronation in May. We also decided to ring some additional new methods that are being printed in the Ringing World magazine each month.

You hopefully saw our posters inviting people to come to an Open Evening to see what ringing is about, and have a go at learning in

readiness for the Coronation. Five people came and Cathy gave them a go at ringing the backstroke. One had rung before and is now a great help on Sundays, three of the others are progressing week by week. Well done to all. Also, since the last we report, we rang a quarter peal of one of the new methods - All Saints Doubles.

The Branch AGM was held here at Rushden with 38 members attending. Afternoon ringing was followed by tea and the meeting, where reports of last year were given, new members elected and officers for this year elected - the only changes were a new Ringing Master and Assistant. The programme of venues for the monthly ringing was presented, and accepted, subject to permissions. There was also a short discussion about the Guild's options for accommodating the towers from the Thrapston Branch, as the Branch no longer has enough ringers to be viable.

Tintinnabulum

Feedback

A different kind of Christingle at Candlemas 29 January – “It was with some reluctance that I arrived at church on 29 January 29 for the joint Christingle Service (my first mistake). The church was almost full already and the atmosphere was buzzing (my first surprise). Sadly I declined to accept an orange (my second mistake!)

Linnet and Tom soon got the service underway - and I quickly regretted my lack of an orange. It was obviously going to be fun! The sharing of the paper bags of resources (red tape, cocktail sticks, raisins, candles, knives and scissors) added to the sense of co-operation. When it came to lighting the completed Christingles, it struck me that the people walking round with tapers did not need to light many – because people were passing their flames along the pew to their neighbour. Just as faith is often passed on.

When all the candles were alight and the electric lights switched off, the effect was stunning.

All in all, a truly joyful experience. We concluded with learning an amazing new song, The Lighthouse, the actions of which were a real ‘work out’ By now all inhibitions gone and there was a real sense of unity and happiness - a joint service indeed.”

... from a member of St Mary's 11.15 congregation.

Those Doors . . . At Last!!!



The South Porch of our magnificent church has been graced with beautiful oak doors and a glazed window in the West wall. It was crafted superbly by Rushden carpenters Woodward Joinery and gifted to St Mary's as the final contribution from 'The Friends of St Mary's Charitable Trust' after 13 years of fundraising supported by church members, many townfolk and local businesses. St Mary's is Rushden's oldest structure, dating from the 13th century and has been a focal point of so many lives and events during that time.

For the last 50 years this porch had a temporary barrier of hardboard fronted by old wrought iron gates, placed there out of necessity to protect workmen's tools as they repaired the tower, but hardly fitting on a Grade One listed building. Whether you remember it pre-1950s when this was used as a church entrance, or you only recall its ugly covering of recent decades, or especially if you are a newcomer and have yet to see it, do take a walk round the exterior and have a look. I recall an incident a few years ago when I was a church warden, seeing a bridal party trying to get photographs taken with the trees and lawn of this area and the ancient doorway as a framework, only to be disappointed and move to the west steps. Trivial concern maybe but it registered with me.

John Allen (former chair of trustees)



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Gardening Report



It has been many months since the last gardening report and we have struggled somewhat because of age, knee replacements and spells in hospital. We still do our best and hope that the churchyard is still a pleasure to walk through. The winter months are not that productive but the decoration of the Christmas tree is always a highlight and last Christmas I was grateful that Gill and Hilary, our two youngest gardeners, were able to show their agility and artistic talent because they are the only ones who are allowed up a ladder to reach the top of the tree. We also had to enlist the youth of the church (Paul Adams) to put up the lanterns for carols by candlelight.

After Christmas gardening started again and we attempted to remove some of the ivy from the gardeners' shed although this is not obvious as there is rather a lot of it. We have been able to cut the Garden of Rest grass and have pruned all the fuchsias and about half the rose bushes. We even continued to prune roses when it snowed although it was a bit "parky". Hopefully the rose trees will not be upset by this. The hyacinths are beginning to show and so are the blue bells, even in the places where we had removed them. The two apple trees which were set last year appear to be thriving and the flowering cherry near the west gate has blossom. In preparation for the summer, we have set bedding plant seeds and tomato seeds so look forward to a good display later in the year.

Unfortunately, we are not getting any younger and are finding that as much as we enjoy the gardening Wednesday afternoons are for recovering from the morning's work. We would be so pleased if anyone would like to join us on a Wednesday morning. Gardening skills are not essential and you always get a coffee break.

Bob Bates

Home Instead are currently taking bookings for group talks. We are offering free talks to people in the community to help them if they are caring for loved ones at home. The talks only last 15-20 minutes and there is a chance to ask questions at the end. We are also offering free talks on Dementia and how to look after someone who has it. If you would like to book a talk, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01933 678775



Marie Franks

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Church Diary

April

- 1 **Saturday: 9.30-3.30pm - Easter Eggtravaganza** - Discover the Easter story through songs, stories, crafts, games and more! Open to all Primary School-aged Children. £10 per child: £5 per sibling. Please bring a packed lunch - snacks will be provided. Booking forms available at the back of church. More information from Helen: 07495 304974 or hisimcock@gmail.com.
- 4 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - contact details on p5
- 10 **Monday: 1.00-4.00pm - Cowslip & Fritillary Day at Newton.** Afternoon Tea and plants for sale.
- 12 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies' Group** meet in the Church Hall with an invited speaker.
- 15 **Saturday: 9.30-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads, male carers and their younger children [0-6 years old] Adults £5: children free.
- 16 **Sunday: 1.30pm: St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting - APCM** will take place after a joint service at 10.30am and following a shared lunch

May

- 2 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - contact details on p5
- 6 **Saturday: Coronation of King Charles III**
- 10 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies' Group** meet in the Church Hall with a talk by **Edeltraud Freund** about the **Women Have A Go Group @**
- 13 **Saturday: 2.00-5.00pm - Mission Quiz** in the Church Hall
- 20 **Saturday: 9.30-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads, male carers and their younger children [0-6 years old] Adults £5: children free.
- 20 **Saturday: PCC Away Day**

Planning Ahead - June

- 17 **Saturday: 7.30pm - Northampton Male Voice Choir** perform in St Mary's Church. Doors will be open at 6.45pm for light refreshments. Entrance by ticket only - £10 per person. Available from St Mary's church office or Kathy (choir) Mobile: 07990 836217

Services for April 2023

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 2 April - Palm Sunday

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

Thursday 6 April - Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion BCP

Friday 7 April - Good Friday

11.00am Council of Churches: United
Service at St Mary's
2.00pm A time of reflection
6.00pm Good Friday Vigil

Sunday 9 April - Easter Day

9.30am Service of Worship & Word 10.00am Easter Holy
11.15am Morning Prayer Communion

Sunday 16 April - Second Sunday of Easter

10.30am Joint Service followed by APCM 10.00am Family Service/
after a shared lunch at 12.30 Morning Prayer

Sunday 23 April - Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am Worship & Word 10.00am Holy Communion
11.15am Holy Communion 15.30pm Townsend Court

Sunday 30 April - Fourth Sunday after Easter

9.30am Worship & Word 10.00am Family Service
11.15am Morning Prayer

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays - April 6, 13, 20, 27
at 10.30am - Holy Communion [BCP]

Services for May 2023

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 7 May - Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 14 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am All Age Service 10.00am Morning Prayer
11.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday 21 May - Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday 28 May - Pentecost

9.30am Informal Service 10.00am Holy Communion
11.15am Morning Prayer
6.00pm Council of Churches Service at
Park Road Baptists Church

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays 10.30am on May 4, 11, 18, 25 2- 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>.

Non-subscription copies of this Newsletter are routinely made available at the back of church. If you would like to contribute towards their printing costs please put whatever seems appropriate into the old Grapevine slot by the Hymn Books in St Mary's Church.