

# **Winter Newsletter**

**December 2023 - January 2024**



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

# Who's Who

**Rector: Rev Tom King**

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01933 311706

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**St Mary's Churchwardens:**

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**St Mary's Church Office**

Tues--Thurs: 10.00-12noon:

Samantha Nagel, Pam Bailey, Kathy MacKenzie

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**Newton Bromswold Churchwardens**

Bob Lines, 25 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, NN10 0SR:  
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**Newton Bromswold website:** www.newtonchurch.co.uk

*Items for the  
**February/March**  
Newsletter should be sent  
by  
**Sunday 14 January**  
to  
**St Mary's Church Office***



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## Tom King writes . . .

Hello once more,

And Happy New Year! At least, on 1 December we begin the new year of the Church's traditional calendar, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus. The idea, of course, is that this event, the coming of Jesus into the world, is the most momentous thing that has ever happened – until the next time!

For Jesus' coming is not something that happened only in the distant past, but it is something that is yet to happen too. However, it can be difficult for us to remember that there will be a next time. Our concerns and our focus on the here-and-now, particularly at Christmas, do distract us. Yet this is the Christian hope: that one day, and soon (it has been more than 2000 years, but it is still soon), Jesus will return to earth to restore, renew and gather in all who have been called by his Name.

It is a remarkable story, regardless of how often we tell it. The notion that the God who created all things would enter into the midst of his own Creation, to become as we are – human and vulnerable – all for the sake of love and to rescue us from darkness, sin and death. We look forward then to the final end of those things, for which the Cross and Resurrection were a foretaste. In re-telling the Christmas story we proclaim that God sent a Saviour to achieve for us, as one of us, what no other human being ever could – who restores for us a relationship with God, and through Jesus, all are welcome.

The evidence of his first coming and his second is all around us, and is in us. It is the testimony given by all those that knew him then, and in all those who believe in Jesus now – for God's Holy Spirit witnesses to the truth of this story through us. Our re-telling then joins with what has been consistently and marvellously attested by millions upon millions of people in the two millennia since his birth, that God will come to us. So come, Lord Jesus.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year,  
Tom



# Special Birthdays

We have had quite a few special birthdays and anniversaries recently at St. Mary's. At our Tea and Coffee morning on Thursday 2 November we celebrated Shelia Tansley who turned Ninety and also to Beth Edmund who turned Fifty, they were presented with a hamper and gifts. Congratulations to you both, love and best wishes from all of us at St. Mary's.



**Tips for Christmas:** Help protect your home and belongings against opportunist burglars and thieves. The key advice is to 'Lock up'. Make your house less tempting to opportunistic burglars when you are out. Use timer switches to make lights come on as it gets dark, close curtains and blinds so valuables cannot be seen from outside. When at home, remember to lock your front door and windows from the inside, don't let opportunist thieves in. If you have a porch, locking the door can add an extra barrier. Lock your back door, conservatory and entry ways on the side of your house so criminals cannot enter undetected by neighbours or digital doorbell cameras.

*Seasons Greetings from Neighbourhood Watch*



# St Mary's News

## **Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 6 November 2023 in the Lower Vestry Hall.**

14 members of the PCC attended our meeting and the previous minutes were discussed, matters arising, and finance. The bolts in the Gents toilets should be repaired the week of 6 November.

The trees behind the Church have been cut and cleared away.

An annual service of all PA equipment is due which will include a quote for the screen and speaker for the choir area.

Renovation to the toilets with 2 quotes have been received but further details are needed, and the electrics & lights. The area at the back of the church is being dealt with, Paul met with Underwoods and is awaiting a design & quote. The ramps & access application to the DAC are meeting on November 21, and a DAC visit has been requested.

The clapper has been repaired. The rough sleepers have been rehoused and some low level damage to a tomb has been noted and needs repairing as soon as possible.

The Mission committee will meet on November 27 to discuss mission giving.

Helen our family worker gave her report on all of the many activities such as Bumps & Babes with numbers around 12-18 attending. The Alpha course is nearly completed. Ignite Kids Club started again in September, rebranded, and with positive feedback.

The Lighthouse Sunday school numbers are averaging around 12. The Light Trail in October was successful.

Date of the next PCC meeting is Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7pm.

**The Ladies Group** met on Wednesday 8 November and had the British Legion as its theme. Rev Dr Linnet Smith, chaplain of the local branch lead prayers and the devotional, focusing on how we should avoid hurting one another. This was followed by a very interesting and insightful talk by Lynne and Jake Baker, secretary and chairman of the local branch, on how they involve the young people and schools of our community in remembering those who have fallen.

The **Ladies Group** will meet again on Wednesday 13 December at 2.15pm for an afternoon of carols, mince pies and a Christmas quiz.

## Flower Rotas

### *Behind the Communion Table*

#### **December**

- 3 Paula Williams  
10 Rita Nutter (in memory of Alice arranged by Ellen Inwood)  
17 Christmas Flowers - Christmas Team  
24 Christmas Flowers - Christmas Team  
31 Christmas Flowers - Christmas Team

#### **January**

- 7 Barbara Coxon  
14 Ann Harris  
21 Rita Nutter (in memory of Keith arranged by Ellen Inwood)  
28 Mary Hadley

### **Memorial Chapel**

#### **December**

- 17 Brenda Dixon  
24 Christmas Brenda Dixon

#### **January**

- 7 Mrs Marion Bates  
14 Mrs Kelland in memory of her husband  
28 Gerald and Alice in memory of Fred and Elsie Bass.

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

## THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

**Monday 16 October**

Shirley Ann Lowe [80]

### Thanksgiving

**Friday 27 October**

Anne Riley [83]

### Baptisms

**Sunday 15 October**

Penelope Iris Bysouth - Minney  
Jamie Anders Bysouth - Minney  
Genevieve Leanna Brooke Wilson

**World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 1 March 2024 and St Peter's Church, Midland Road will be holding a service at 2pm. The service has been written by Palestinian Ladies.

**Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Annual Quiz** - in aid of the Guild Bell Fund, £1 from Pam in the Church Office or 01933 313195. Closing date is 28 February.

### **Crafts and Coffee/Tea**

On **Tuesday 5 December** we will be making 'Christmas Crafts' and on **Tuesday 2 January** we will be making a 'Calendar'. For further information contact Lynne: 353655 or [lynne@lateralflow.co.uk](mailto:lynne@lateralflow.co.uk)

## Children's Society News

Entries for John's Winter Quiz 'All Abroad' close on 30 April 2024. Available from Pam Bailey (Church Office), Mary Hadley and Joy Holloway. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for those taking part in our Summer Quiz. We raised £170 for the Children's Society. After a draw the three winners with 97 points were Mrs V Reis from Chelmsford, Mrs P Bailey from Rushden, and Mrs D Humble from Kirkbymoorside, York who each receive £10. We hope you enjoy the new Quiz. Joy Holloway

## Rushden and Newton Bromswold WI Quiz Night

On January 11 2024 with Terry Chapman, there will be prizes, a raffle, refreshments, and a competition beginning with the letter U.

The meeting will be held at the Windmill Club, Glassbrook Road, Rushden NN10 9RP.

Visitors are welcome, we are a small friendly group, come and give us a try.

Please contact Pat Taylor on 01933 314294 or Julia Allen on 01933 317846



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

**Saturdays 16 December &  
20 January**

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

**Adults £5: children free**

**Just turn up!**

## Congratulations are due to ...

Dora Paynton who celebrated her Eightieth birthday on 4 November.

Richard and Eileen Bennett nee Knott on their Fifty years of Marriage on 3 November.

Mary Hadley who celebrates her Eightieth birthday on 20 January and Martin Cromwell who also celebrates his Eightieth birthday on 28 January. Love and best wishes from all of us at St Mary's.

# Newton News

**Bible Study in The Swan with Rev Dr. Glyn Ackerley** continues on Wednesday 13 December at 7pm – 8:30pm  
Wednesday 10 January at 7pm – 8:30pm  
Wednesday 24 January at 7pm – 8:30pm

**Carol Singing** in The Swan on Monday 18 December at 7:30pm,

**The Christingle** will be held on Sunday 4 February at 10am

**The Church Gates** have now been replaced and greatly improve the entrance of the Churchyard. Thank you to everyone who donated towards the new gates. If you would still like to donate, then please contact Helen Lines (PCC Treasurer) on 01933 315864 or [Helen.Lines@me.com](mailto:Helen.Lines@me.com).

## FLOWERS

### December

- 3 Rosemary Coulson and Abby Stannard
- 17 Helen Mayes

### January

- 7 Mrs Burt
- 21 Helen Lines

## THE REGISTERS

### Baptisms

**Sunday 15 October**  
Violet Joy-Ann Altham





## December 2023 Advent

I always like to think of it as a 'Pregnant pause' – literally for Mary and Elizabeth of course! For most of us though it is a time of waiting, of getting ready, of expecting.

What is it that we are expecting though? Presents is often the answer I get in school when I ask that question and of course that is true and with those gifts comes the expectation of time with friends or with family, a space to celebrate. We expect a change of atmosphere and attitude – we look forward to 'feeling – Christmassy'!

Alas though, so often, we rush into Christmas with other expectations, stress, busyness, panic, overcrowded shops, relationships strained to breaking point, guests we 'ought' to invite but don't really want to.

In our churches perhaps we could try to slow the pace down a little. It seems impossible I know - but what if, in Advent, we journey together, taking time to look back on those who have gone before us, waiting with expectancy for the story which fills our Christmas day but not rushing to get there, enjoying the journey itself not just focusing on the destination.

This advent (if you can) take just 5 minutes each day to find a little space, to allow yourself to expect the good things, to give to God those

difficulties and moments that you dread and to feel the pace slowing a little. Five minutes may seem

like no time (or else an impossibly long time to stop with so much to do) but if we can carve out just those few minutes to contemplate the reality of Christmas.

The reality we are reminded of each year that God of the universe who chose to be born a vulnerable child, in a borrowed stable, a family forced to live as refugees and then endure a life as an outsider so that we might know God's love and presence in the joys and sorrows of our lives. There is something about taking time on the journey that allows us to 'look forward' to Christmas in a new way, to wonder about what will be in a way that Children seem to find so easy and as adults we seem so often to have lost.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

Alison Booker  
Archdeacon of Oakham

**Diocese of Peterborough - Magazine Resource - December 2023**

Produced by the Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 1YB

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[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

# Mission Matters

“Every thirty seconds.....”



Every thirty seconds one person on this planet dies from disease caused by mismanaged waste.

Every thirty seconds the U.K. throws away enough plastic to fill two double-decker buses.

Every thirty seconds thirty double-decker busloads-worth of plastic waste are burned or dumped in low and middle income countries.

Tearfund quotes these statistics to highlight the urgent problem which our world faces. Two billion people, without a way of disposing of rubbish safely, are obliged to live amongst it. This makes them vulnerable to toxic fumes, ill health and flooding and causes up to a million deaths each year. Thankfully, during this year and into 2024, almost 150 governments are meeting to develop the first global treaty on plastic pollution. Tearfund have organised a petition urging world leaders to act to address this issue and its disastrous impact upon people living in poverty.

Much more information on this can be found at [tearfund.org/rubbish](https://tearfund.org/rubbish)

Could you pray? Could you sign the petition?

Could our church join others who have become involved?

Let us know your thoughts.

Thank you.



Sue Eagles, for the Mission Committee



## Nene Wetlands Festive Event

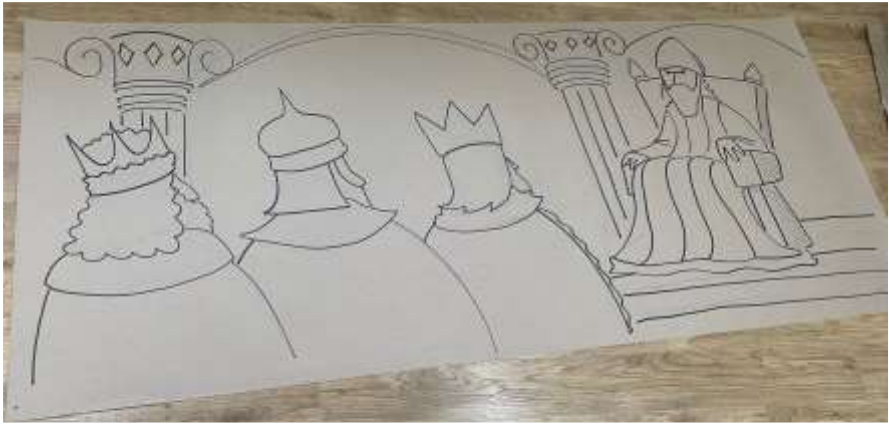
**Saturday 2 December 2023 10:30am - 4:00pm**

*Join us at Rushden Lakes for a day of live music, sustainable Christmas shopping and natural festive crafts, all raising money to support our vital work protecting local wildlife!*

**This drop in event will feature live music outside the visitor centre as well as stalls from local suppliers and drop-in Christmas craft activities in the visitor centre.**

# Christmas Mural Project

We have been busy creating a Christmas Mural which all of the groups will be painting and will then be put on display in the church for the Nativity service on 17 December for everyone to see.



## **Anne Riley: 20 March 1940 - 8 October 2023**

It was an enormous privilege to have known Anne, and to have shared so many services with her at St. Mary's.

Arriving for our 11.15 service on a Sunday, or at our 10.30 Thursday communion, her wonderful smile always greeted us - and newcomers were made especially welcome.

For a long time, Anne would equip herself with a clipboard and list - so that if anyone was unexpectedly missing, she could try to investigate if help was needed. This was in her role as "Pastoral Care Contact" - at which she worked hard and took seriously, often personally visiting those who were ill or in trouble. She supported so many with great empathy and huge amounts of common sense over any practical issues. She was a great source of help, contacts and information.

This is not to overlook Anne's sense of fun and adventure! I personally shared some great outings and activities with her - as did many of her wide circle of friends.

Her flat at No.1 the Linnets always had a warm welcome - and was fully equipped for the regular entertaining she loved, especially with her beloved husband Dennis.

Both of them enjoyed playing chess, which Anne continued to play until earlier this year.

Anne also supported "The Children's Society", and was happy to have these, and other, meetings in her home.



Anne knew so many in our congregations. In her role as “Roving Reporter” over several years, she interviewed many of us individually for her articles in the parish magazine - thereby introducing us to one another and helping us get to know each other better.

Stuck on the outside of one of her kitchen cabinets was an important list! Upcoming “special” birthdays and anniversaries! On the big day, Anne would always have prepared an appropriate gift and card... “From us all at St Mary’s”... Often presented in Church, or delivered personally.

Monthly, Anne lead our intercessions during the 11.15 service - always sensitively, and thoughtfully prepared. She was a much-loved, dear friend, and gave us all a wonderful Christian example. We shall miss her so much.

Ann Smith



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# Belfry Gossip

Again, good news, the new clapper was put in place a few days after the last article was submitted, and we are now back to normal ringing again.

During the past two months, as well as ringing on Sundays between the services, we rang a Quarter Peal to celebrate the Harvest Festival, and a half-muffled one for Remembrance Sunday after ringing with the bells half-muffled for the Service at the War Memorial. Additionally, we took the opportunity to ring another one in October to remind people that the Church is here, and a band, including Simon, rang a Peal in a new method on All Hallows Eve in readiness for All Saints Day.



Cathy is also doing a sterling job of teaching the art of bellringing week by week to a few interested people so that we can keep the bells ringing into the future.



The Wellingborough Branch has held ringing meetings at Yardley Hastings (6 bells), Irchester (8), here at Rushden (8) and at Great Doddington (5) since last time, and most of our ringers were at each meeting.

We are making plans for Christmas and there is a Branch quiz coming up, but that's for next time.

*Tintinnabulum*

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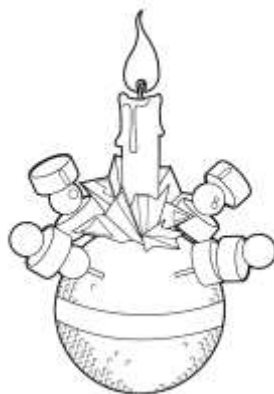


# Church Diary - December 2023

- 2 **Saturday: 7.30pm - Mum's Christmas Craft Evening** in the Church hall. Arranged by toddlers together, free entry.
- 3 **Sunday: 11.30am-1pm - Deep** The Youth Group Deep will meet every first and third Sundays of the month in the Lower Hall for school years 7 to 13. Meet people, eat food, play fun games and learn about Jesus. For further information please contact Helen: 07495 304974  
**Sunday: 4pm - The Bible Course** - Come and join on Sunday for the last of these sessions, there will be cake! See Tom or Sam for more details email stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com
- 4 **Monday: 10-11.30am - Bumps and Babes** in Church where the children collect a musical instrument to play. This is followed by lighting of a candle, a short bible story, colouring and some fun songs. We then move to the main church hall, where the children (and parents) can take part in craft activities or play with toys, whilst enjoying a drink, biscuit and a chat. Come and join us. £1.50 per family.
- 5 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - contact details on p5.
- 9 **Saturday: 10am-12noon - Choir Coffee Morning** - £3 entrance fee (children free) including tea/coffee and mince pie. Stalls and carol singing. Meet with friends, Everyone welcome.
- 11 **Monday: 10-11.30am - Bumps and Babes** in Church  
**Monday: 6-7.30pm - Ignite Kids Club** On the 2nd and 4th Mondays for School years 1-6 are invited to come and play games, crafts, cooking, trips out and more. £1.50 per session, plus extra for tuck. Further information please contact Paula 07505 381389
- 13 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall for Carols, Mince Pies and a Quiz.  
**Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice**
- 14 **Thursday: 7.30pm - Prayer, Praise & Presence** - Join us for this special informal evening.
- 16 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads, male carers and their younger children [0-6yrs]. Adults £5: children free.
- 17 **Sunday: 11.30am-1pm - Deep Youth Group**  
**Sunday: 5-6pm - Bellringers Quarter Peal**  
**Sunday: 6pm - Carols by Candlelight**
- 18 **Monday: 10am-1pm - Bumps and Babes Christmas Party**

# Church Diary - January 2024

- 2 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - contact details on p5.
- 3 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice**
- 7 **Sunday: 11.30am-1pm - Deep** The Youth Group Deep will meet every first and third Sundays of the month in the Lower Hall for school years 7 to 13. Meet people, eat food, play fun games and learn about Jesus. For further information please contact Helen: 07495 304974.
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- 15 **Monday: 10-11.30am - Bumps and Babes** in Church
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- 20 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads, male carers and their younger children [0-6yrs]. Adults £5; children free.
- 21 **Sunday: 11.30am-1pm - Deep Youth Group**
- 22 **Monday: 10am-1pm - Bumps and Babes Stay 'n' Munch** Bring your packed lunch and join us every 4th Monday of the month to Stay 'n' Munch 12noon - 1pm.
- 28 **Sunday: 10.30am - Joint Christingle Service**
- 30 **Tuesday: 5.30-9pm - Bellringers 3 Hour Peal Attempt**



# Services for December 2023

St Mary's  
Rushden

St Peter's  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 3 December - First Sunday of Advent

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

## Sunday 10 December - Second Sunday of Advent

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

## Sunday 17 December - Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Nativity Service		
11.15am	Holy Communion	10.00am	Children's Carol Service
6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight		

## Sunday 24 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve

4.00pm	Evangelistic Service	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
11.00pm	Midnight Communion		

## Monday 25 December - Christmas Day

10.00am	Holy Communion	9.00am	Christmas Communion
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## Sunday 31 December - The Sunday after Christmas Day

10.30am	Joint Service	10.00am	Family Service
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## Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays - December 7, 14, 21, 28  
at 10.30am - Holy Communion [BCP]

*If you would like to continue to receive this Newsletter in place of Grapevine then talk to St Mary's Church Office and your copy will be delivered as before unless you normally collect it yourself. For those receiving their copy by post there will be a small charge of £5 per year: if this applies to you, a note will be included with this edition*

**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.**

# Services for January 2024

**St Mary's**  
Rushden

**St Peter's**  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 7 January

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

## Sunday 14 January

9.30am	Worship and Word	10.00am	Family Service
11.15am	Morning Prayer - Dedication of Standard for Royal Naval Association		

## Sunday 21 January

9.30am	Worship and Word	10.00am	Family Service
11.15am	Holy Communion		

## Sunday 28 January

10.30am	Joint Christingle Service	10.00am	Holy Communion
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*Midweek Services in St Mary's Church*  
Thursdays 10.30am on January 4, 11, 18, 25  
- 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 on YouTube:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden>.