

**Late Summer Newsletter
August - September 2024**



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

Who's Who

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Items for the
October/November
Newsletter should be sent
by
Sunday 8 Sept
to
St Mary's Church Office



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Tom King writes . . .

Hello everyone,

I hope that you are enjoying the Summer so far.

Although we have had fewer fine days than perhaps hoped for in June and July, despite all the rain we can also be thankful to the Lord that we are not in drought. Perhaps this too can be a reminder that gratitude and praise have always been the end response of the faithful when we come to appreciate what God does and has done for us – our salvation in Jesus and the sustenance of our lives.



That is not to say that we cannot also be honest before God at all times when faced with difficulty, or danger. It has been a very busy and complex few months since our last newsletter, with our own General Election, and with so many other countries around the world holding or preparing for similar democratic elections. There are also those countries that we hear of or know, that are led in autocratic, or more turbulent ways. While we here all still face pressures with the cost of living and sometimes difficult access to public services, we continue to receive news of wars and rumours of wars, and there is famine, flood and storm all over the world.

When we read the Bible, we find real people giving honest responses before God in light of all these different circumstances. When faced with hardship or distress, the biblical answer is lament – to tell God of our distress and pain – because we believe that he is who he says he is, and that he cares for us. The promises of God that we know in the resurrection of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit show us that this remains true, for God loves the world.

When we do this, when we lament, when we pour out our confusion and upset, our grief or our lack of understanding, even our unbelief and disillusionment, we can return most readily to praise on the other side, because we know God is bigger than all our troubles. The Apostle Paul understood this well when he said that our current troubles are not to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed in us, the glory of God himself and our lives shared with Jesus. This is the testimony of the Church throughout the world, that Jesus has overcome the world. With this same confidence then, let's approach God honestly, in good and in bad, and pray that his kingdom come, now and always.

Mission Matters

Not the usual topic

For my Newsletter article, maybe, but one that matters to Jesus and so should matter to you and me too. I am writing about sex workers.

Church Army tells us that there are an estimated 105,000 people involved in sex work in the UK, most of them women, and that 76% of them suffer from some kind of post-traumatic stress disorder. Their back stories are often harrowing, including experience of sexual abuse, domestic violence and deprivation.

The Church Army “Ruby Project” exists to show them that God loves them and that they are precious to him. It gives them the opportunity to explore faith in Jesus and also offers practical help. A safe, welcoming drop-in service is available three times a week, providing meals, food parcels, a clothing bank and washing facilities, as well as enabling appointments with outside agencies. Also, there is support for those who have suffered emotional trauma.

The Project team also goes into red- light areas to meet women where they are, taking with them helpful items such as food and toiletries. Many of the women ask for prayer. There is a well-used prayer corner at the drop- in centre, also a faith exploration group. The team are there, too, to help those women who are wanting to come out of sex work, enabling them to access the support and services which they need in order to do so.

Please do pray for this very worthwhile “ Ruby Project”, that the Lord will guide and encourage its team, supply every material need, and, by his Spirit, give wonderful new life, joy and freedom in Jesus to the women who access it.

Sue Eagles, for the Mission Committee.



St Mary's News

Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024 in the Lower Vestry Hall.

Rev Tom King, Rev Linnet Smith, Rev Glynn Ackerley, Kate Woodfield, Louise Skinner, Marion Bates, Martin Compton, Bob Bates, James Woodfield, James Mellor, Tony Smith, Peter Coxon, Helen Allan, Helen Smedley and Jennie Bone. No apologies

Tom opened the meeting with a reading from Colossians 1 v 3

The substantive topic of discussion was our Church Services and the way forward: what changes we need to make and how we proceed. Points discussed included encouraging members to engage in varied roles, leadership, relationships and changes. We envisage a trial change to service times and content. Tom and James Mellor will formulate a consultation to be shared amongst the congregation for two weeks from next Sunday.

Agreed to this proposal.

Finance

Louise Skinner confirmed a discussion had taken place with David Mason regarding our decision to reduce our parish share by 50% from July 1. The auditors had some

questions but accounts were likely to be confirmed. Thanks was given to Louise for her hard work at this difficult time.

Fabric

Toilet refurbishment had begun. An architect needed to be engaged for the upcoming quinquennial.

Family Worker

Helen Smedley reported on many areas of steady growth and interest, an Illuminate update, especially the good news of Findlay's engagement as a result of the event and post event encouragement.

Members expressed thanks to Helen for her continued work.

Mission

We discussed our mission giving. Tom and Gemma Fifield from Ethiopia spoke to us on Sunday 30 June followed by a picnic lunch. Thank you so much for coming.

Any other business:

The engagement with Schools continues .

Archdeacon Alison will attend our next PCC meeting in September. The IT issues in church need solving and are scheduled to be fixed on Friday 2 August.

Date of Next Meeting Monday 19 August at 7pm.

Flower Rotas

Behind the Communion Table

August

- 4 Julie West
11 Helen Smedley
18 Jude Curtis
25 Kathy & Chris MacKenzie

September

- 1 Marion Bates
8 Ellen Inwood
15 Barbara Coxon
22 Mary Hadley
29 Kathy & Chris MacKenzie

Memorial Chapel

August

- 12 Mr Peter White
(in memory of Andrew)

September

- 29 Mrs Julie West

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

Interested in flower arranging?

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers arranged by willing volunteers behind the Communion table? Would you like to belong to this elite Group? You do not need to be skilled in flower arranging, just love flowers. Commitment only once every two months. Interested? Contact Kathy on 07990 836217.

THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Friday 12 July

Glyn James Muncey [90]

Thanksgiving

Friday 26 July

Michael David Hill [82]

Interment of ashes

Thursday 9 May

Betty Chisholm

Weddings

Saturday 8 June

David Paul Wild
Elizabeth Anne Lombe Ewang

The Ladies Group will meet on Wednesday 11 September at 2.15pm. Please note there is no ladies group in August.

Children's Society Quiz

John's next Quiz titled '**Ending in S**' is still available from Pam: 01933 313195, Mary: 01933 315383, Joy: 01933 318415 and Samantha in the Church Office. Price £1. Closing date 31 October.

Congratulations are due to

Gerald Bass who celebrated his Sixtieth birthday on 7 July. Love and best wishes from all of us at St Mary's.

Crafts/Coffee and Tea In July we made bracelets and other jewellery. If you would like to join us our next meeting is **Tuesday 6 August 10am to 12noon** where we will be doing **'Adult Colouring'**. Also **Tuesday 3 September 10am to 12noon** we will be making **'Gift Tags'**. For further information contact Helen: 07814 226614 or hfallan22@gmail.com



Summer Holiday Club is on Monday 19 9am-12.30pm, Tuesday 20 9am-12.30pm and Wednesday 21 August 9am-12.30pm. Come along for a pirate adventure with games, activities, bible-based story and songs. Family picnic on Wednesday afternoon. For ages 5-11 years. £5 per child. For Booking form and more information contact Sam in the Church Office stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com




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.

**Saturday
21 September**
9.30am - 12noon
St Mary's Church Hall
Adults £5: children free
Just turn up!

Calling on all who enjoy singing and would like to join St Mary's Church choir. You don't need to read music, just have a good ear. Enthusiasm and commitment are more important. All welcome, any age from 8 years and over. Choir practice held on a Wednesday evening from 7:15pm for an hour. Interested! Please contact Kathy on 07990 836217 or email kathchris@btinternet.com.



Change of Service Times at St Mary's

It has been agreed at the PCC meeting by a majority vote from our consultation that we will be implementing option 1 where Church will be across the morning.

10am Traditional Worship Service in the Church

10.30am Worship and Word in the Upper Hall

11.15am Tea, coffee and fellowship in the hall for everyone

11.30am Teaching groups, or quiet prayer or extended worship including Holy Communion and baptisms.

This will begin on Sunday 1 September for a 6-month trial period.

Newton News

Village Fete

The Village Fete raised £1876 for Church Funds, which was remarkable considering the weather at the start of the Fete, but the weather improved during the afternoon. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the Fete and to everyone who supported. The fancy dress was won by Grace Girling as Oompa Loompa from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Open Gardens

Newton Bromswold held a successful Open Gardens on the 9th June and raised £325 for Friends of Newton Church. Tea and Cakes were served in the Village Hall. Thank you to all who opened their gardens and those that came and looked around the gardens.

FLOWERS

August

- 4 Mrs Burt
- 11 Helen Lines
- 18 June Clarke
- 25 Helen Mayes

September

- 1 Helen Rees-Bidder
- 8 Sarah
- 15 Mrs Dangerfield
- 29 Rosemary Coulson and Abby Stannard

**‘Sabbath is not simply the pause that refreshes.
It is the pause that transforms.’**

I recently attended General Synod where there were many encouraging debates, including one which focused on the need for clergy to take enough time to rest during the working week. There is a tradition for clergy to take only one day off per week, and this debate was encouraging them to take at least one and a half days. Of course, rest is not something that only clergy need to be reminded of – we all need to remember that we have been made by God to take care of our minds, bodies and souls, which includes the need for Sabbath rest. It is for good reason that the Ten Commandments includes this. Rest allows us to draw closer to God, to take time to be and marvel at his creation, to take pleasure in hobbies and pastimes, to spend precious time with friends and family. Our world runs at a pace and we often have to be disciplined to stop and rest as God encourages us to. The bible scholar, Walter Brueggemann has written about



Sabbath rest and says this: *‘Sabbath is not simply the pause that refreshes. It is the pause that transforms.’*

Summer is often a time when we are able to pause and to rest and I hope that you will be able to do just that, and as you do I pray that you will draw close to God and sense more of his transforming presence in your life.

+ Debbie

The Right Reverend Debbie Sellin
Bishop of Peterborough

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AFTERNOON CONCERT HELD ON SATURDAY, 15 JUNE

After the very successful and enjoyable concert produced by Ian Runnells and Lizzie Peacock, £347 was raised for St Mary's Church fund. Many thanks go to our two resident organists.



CONCERT REVIEW

From the first rousing notes of Handel and Bach played to full effect on our magnificent church organ, we knew we were in for a treat. This much anticipated concert was the brainchild of Ian Runnells collaborated by Lizzie Peacock, two local musicians who currently share the role of St Mary's organist on Sunday mornings and Ian also tutors the choir once a month.

Ian Runnells has been Director of Music and organist at St Mary's Higham Ferrers, at St Paul's Church Bedford and at Wellingborough School, where he is currently responsible for music provision across the three schools, and the running of a busy academic and co-curricular programme as well as playing the organ on a freelance basis.

Lizzie Peacock is both an organist and a harpist, in great demand as the latter for weddings and events in the East Midlands as well as performing in hospitals and retirement homes and accompanying choirs and musical theatre groups as a pianist.

Their repertoire – wide ranging and perfectly suited to the occasion – flowed seamlessly from traditional folk tunes such as Greensleeves and Londonderry Air played sensitively on the harp by Lizzie, through the film tune Moonlight and Roses which Ian delivered on the organ in reflective mood, on to Lizzie with Irish, Scottish and Welsh folk songs which she accompanied with her mellifluous soprano voice, then Trumpet Minuet, Fanfare and Elves from Ian on the organ, ending the concert stupendously with the roof-raising Toccata from Widor's fifth Symphony – a perfect conclusion by these talented musicians we are so privileged to know.

To complete the event, savoury nibbles, delicious cakes and a choice of cold drinks were served by choir members during the interval and to end the concert Cathy Calder, a senior choir member, paid tribute to Ian and Lizzie and congratulated choir members Kathy and Chris MacKenzie for their hard work in making this happen. This was a 'first' a home-grown concert provided by our church for our church and judging by the response it received both during and afterwards, the hope is that it won't be the last!

Carol Allen

Belfry Gossip

We've been busy in the belfry, and out and about.

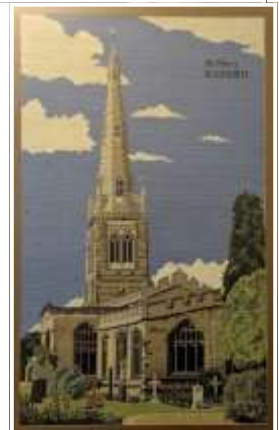
Cat and Simon, as well as Thomas - a regular visitor, were joined by 5 other ringers to ring a Peal of 3 surprise methods spliced together at Rushden. Ringing a Peal is a big commitment and people don't go into it lightly. It is essential to prepare - mentally learning the methods inside out takes many hours and sometimes a lot longer, building the physical ability to stand for around 3 hours, wearing comfortable footwear and clothing, and toughening up the skin of the hands through regular practice (but apart from the most hardened, ringers will get blisters on their hands from 3 hours pulling the ropes!). It was a very nice Peal and received interest on local social media pages.



We won the Branch striking competition at Mears Ashby which 8 local bands entered. Brenda and Alan are pictured with the winners' trophy.

The 5th Sunday of the month, which allows us a slightly longer ringing session, fell the weekend of Cathy's 60th Birthday so we rang an 8th peal to celebrate.

Glyn Muncey, a former ringer at Rushden, sadly died and we rang for his funeral. He rang from the mid 1960's until 2003 - his ringing achievements included 5 peals and 313 quarter peals. He made a beautiful cross stitch embroidery of St Mary's Church which hangs in the tower (shown in the picture).



Cathy continues to have a busy year making sure our guild anniversary events are successful, including a tower open day and a publicity event at Stanwick Lakes with a mini ring of bells and showing the public the workings of a bell, raising interest and awareness.

Wishing Paul a speedy recovery from his knee replacement and he'll hopefully be able to climb the spiral staircase to the belfry and return to ringing in the not too distant future!

Tintinnabulum

St Mary's Church Festival

The St Mary's church fete enabled us to organise and develop a trail around the church using plants from the Bible.

We had displays incorporating a plethora of Bible verses using plants and flowers from the rose to bulrushes and figs to lilies. A verse was given to children's groups within the church and some of our local schools, they then produced a wonderful display of art work and associated elements pertaining to the story of the verse.

Visitors gave great feedback, well done to everyone involved.

Paula Williams



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Sepsis Information

Sepsis (commonly known as blood poisoning). Sepsis is the immune system's overreaction to an infection or injury. Sepsis is an emergency condition. With early diagnosis it can often be treated with antibiotics so it is vital that you know what to look out for.

Symptoms in Children

Any child may have sepsis if he or she:

- Is breathing very fast.**
- Has a 'fit' or convulsion.**
- Looks mottled, bluish, or pale.**
- Has a rash that does not fade when you press it.**
- Is very lethargic or difficult to wake.**
- Feels abnormally cold to touch.**

Symptoms in Adults

Any adult may have sepsis if they show any of these signs:

- Slurred speech or confusion.**
- Extreme shivering or muscle pain.**
- Passing no urine (in a day)**
- Severe breathlessness.**
- It feels like you're going to die.**
- Skin mottled or discoloured.**

Call 111 or contact your GP if you're worried about an infection.
Call 999 or visit A&E if someone has one of the sepsis symptoms.

Need more information, help or support call 0808 800 0029 or visit:
sepsistrust.org/get-support/

RIDE + STRIDE

A great day out discovering England's churches

Ride and Stride - the foremost annual fun **fund-raising** event to help preserve churches and chapels and keep them active in our communities.

**** Date for your diary** - Ride and Stride 2024 will be held on Saturday 14th September ****** between 10am and 6pm. All sponsorship money received will be divided equally between the NHCT and the church or chapel chosen by yourselves. Sponsorship forms and a list of open churches and chapels are available from your local organiser:- For more details see our website: www.nhct.org.uk



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Church Diary - August 2024

- 1 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** at St Mary's Church Hall
- 6 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Adult Colouring, contact details on p7.
- 8 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** at St Mary's Church Hall
Thursday: 7.30pm - Prayer, Praise & Presence
- 14 **Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 15 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall
- 19 **Monday: 9am-12.30pm Summer Holiday Club** for ages 5-11.
Come along for a pirate adventure, with games, activities, bible-based story and songs. 19, 20 and 21 August, £5 per day per child. For more information contact stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com
Monday: 7-9pm - PCC Meeting in the Lower Hall
- 20 **Tuesday: 9am-12.30pm Summer Holiday Club**
- 21 **Wednesday: 9am-12.30pm Summer Holiday Club** Family bring your own picnic on Wednesday afternoon.
Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice in Church
- 22 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall
- 28 **Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 29 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall

BELLRINGING

Are you interested in learning to ring?

or

Did you ring before and like to return.

If so please contact

Brenda Dixon: Tel. 01933 358982

Or come along on Friday evening

Practice night 7.30-9pm

To see what its all about



Church Diary - September 2024

- 2 **Monday: 10-12.30am - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in Church where we light a candle, and have 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. We also serve beans on toast afterwards 11.30am-12.30pm.
- 3 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Making Gift Tags, contact details on p7.
- 4 **Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 5 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** at St Mary's Church Hall, all welcome!
- 9 **Monday: 10-12.30am - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** 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.
Monday: 7-9pm - PCC Meeting in the Lower Hall
- 11 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall
Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice in Church
- 12 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall
Thursday: 7.30pm - Prayer, Praise & Presence
- 15 **Sunday: 11.30am-1pm - Deep** The Youth Group Deep will meet every first and third Sundays of the month (term time) 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.
- 16 **Monday: 10-12.30am - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**
- 18 **Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 19 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall
- 21 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - Monthly event for dads, stepdads, grandads, male carers and their younger children [0-6yrs]. Adults £5: children free.
- 23 **Monday: 10-12.30am - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**
Monday: 6-7.30pm - Ignite Kids Club
- 25 **Wednesday: 7.15-8.15pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 26 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall
- 30 **Monday: 10-12.30am - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**

Services for August 2024

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 4 August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 11 August - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 18 August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.30pm	Worship & Word	10.00pm	Family Service
11.15am	Holy Communion		

Sunday 25 August - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

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

For those receiving their copy of the Newsletter 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 September 2024

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 1 September - Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Church Across the Morning 10.00am Family Service
10.00am Morning Prayer
10.30am Worship & Word in the Hall
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 8 September - Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Church Across the Morning 10.00am Family Service
10.00am Morning Prayer
10.30am Worship and Word in the Hall

Sunday 15 September - Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Church Across the Morning 10.00am Family Service
10.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Worship and Word in the Hall

Sunday 22 September - Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Church Across the Morning 10.00am Family Communion
10.00am Morning Prayer
10.30am Worship and Word in the Hall

Sunday 29 September - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Harvest Festival

10.30am Joint Service 10.00am Harvest Festival

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church
Thursdays 10.30am on September 5, 12, 19 and 26
- Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

St Mary's Sunday Services at 10.30 will continue to be live-streamed
and can also be found later on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden>.