

Winter Newsletter
December 2024 - January 2025



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

Who's Who

Rector: Rev Tom King

email: revtrex@icloud.com

telephone:

07732 805443

Assistant Priest:

Rev Dr Glyn Ackerley

3 Catlin Way, Rushden, NN10 9FN

07595 171748

Children's Worker:

Helen Smedley

07495 304974

Readers: Tony Smith and James Mellor

Hall Bookings: Pam & Paul Bailey

7 Kenilworth Close, Rushden, NN10 0QH

01933 313195

St Mary's Church Office

Tues--Thurs: 10.00-12noon:

Samantha Nagel, Pam Bailey, Kathy MacKenzie

01933 412235



email: stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com

website: www.stmaryschurchrushden.org

facebook: stmaryschurchrushden

Newton Bromswold Churchwardens

Bob Lines, 25 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, NN10 0SR:

Jenny Burt, 23 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold

01933 315864

01933 353076

Newton Bromswold website: www.newtonchurch.co.uk

*Items for the
February/March
Newsletter should be sent
by
Sunday 12 January
to
St Mary's Church Office*



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Tom King writes . . .

Hello everyone! As we enter Advent this year, I am minded to wonder: where do we get our news? News is what is new, and we seemingly have an insatiable appetite for what is new. I am writing here for our newsletter, but these days people are far more likely to find out what is new from TikTok or Instagram. Even five years ago these were being called the ‘new media,’ but the needs for communication during the Covid lockdowns made sure that these surged forwards and, I am reliably informed by teenagers I know, that Facebook is now only for ‘old people.’

However we get our news though, what are we expecting? What we seem to see most of the time is bad news. This frequently leads to people only listening to the news they like, or what they want to hear, because listening to or reading things that upset us can be overwhelming. Yet still we seek news, perhaps because we have the persistent hope that things will get better, or because we have a longing for someone to solve the problems that we see around us.

‘Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land,’ says the Book of Proverbs. Good news is refreshing, it brings us alert, it restores energy and hope. Heaven – where God is – has been painted often as a ‘distant shore,’ but the Good News that we remind each other of at Advent is the greatest Good News of all – that God himself, who created everything there is, is coming to be with us in the here and now! The first time this happened, when Jesus was born, it was so momentous that thousands upon thousands of angels filled the sky to sing about it. We are still expecting him now to come for a second time. In both of these, he is the one who meets our longings for someone to ‘sort things out.’

Jesus was very realistic with his friends and followers when he told them to expect him coming again. He said then that this would be a difficult time, a time when bad news would indeed seem overwhelming. He said, in fact, that it would look very much like what we see now, with violence and war and hardship on every side. But the promise of God is that these things are not final, they don’t have the last word. The promise of God is that he will sort it out, and the guarantee of this is Jesus’ resurrection.

We celebrate Advent and Christmas at the darkest point of the year to remember that light and life will overcome, that Good News is always new, even when it’s old. So I hope that you too are able to hear this good news from a distant land, that you would be refreshed and that you have a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Mission Matters

How would you feel...

...if the pastor of your church had very limited understanding of the Bible and practically no training in teaching or preaching its message? Confused? Unsatisfied? Disengaged? And if you, yourself, were that pastor, how would you feel? Inadequate? Frustrated? Anxious? Alone?

Did you know that it is estimated that in the Majority World fewer than one in four pastors have had the opportunity to receive adequate training? Langham Partnership knows how important the role of the pastor is in the local church. He needs to give sound Bible teaching, often to people who are not able to read for themselves, to encourage believers to grow in their faith and to lead them in telling others in their community about Jesus.

Langham works in many countries to help meet this need for trained local pastors. Those who are called to leadership travel to annual seminars and meet for one week to learn how to study the Bible. Then they return home to join preaching circles in their own communities where they, pastors and lay leaders, receive ongoing help and support. This scheme works very well and has brought hope to God's people whose lives are often challenged by poverty, lack of education and much hardship.

Please do pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who follow Jesus in places in which life can be difficult. And do look on line to find out more about the important ministry of Langham Partnership to the growing church in the Majority World.

www.langham.org

Thank you, all who care about God's work worldwide and pray for our own church's Mission Partners.

Sue Eagles, for the Mission Committee



St Mary's News

Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 4 November 2024 in the Lower Vestry Hall.

Present: Tom K, Helen S, Kate W, James W, Glyn A, Tony S, Louise S, Helen A, Martin Co, Bob B, Marion B.

Apologies received from James M, Peter Co and Jennie B.

Finance. LS reported that all financial obligations had been met despite overall income being £17,678 less than in 2023 to 31 August. TK recommended prayer and that we listen to the Lord. Stewardship Sunday will take place on 23 February 2025.

Fabric. TK thanked Sam for organising the recent repairs to the roof. BB mentioned that Mick H acquired a sign to warn of uneven ground outside. TK confirmed that this will be located facing people approaching up the slope as those coming down are likely to proceed more cautiously.

LS agreed to provide media consent forms to enable the pictures to be used on the church website.

Mission Sue E registered her concerns about possible future changes to the annual church tithe. Sue referred to the early churches in “extreme poverty”, who gave with “overflowing joy” and “rich

generosity” because they “gave themselves first to the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. Sue related her own experience as a missionary in West Africa with no guaranteed income, and dependent on gifts from Christians which provided for her needs. Sue believes that giving a tithe is an act of worship and thanksgiving to God and prays that we renew our commitment to Him by continuing to give generously.

In 2023, the income from unrestricted funds was £124,328. TK observed that what we have always done may not be the way to proceed now. St Mary's must agree what we define as “mission”. MB reminded the PCC that, as a church, we tithe money for which the church is responsible, and that one of our existing mission partners, CPAS, is also a patron.

TK is asking for a real connection. TK spoke about HS's work with Newton Road School and assured the meeting that God will provide. Our attitude towards each other and God is central to this.

The church is the body of Christ. TK remarked that new people coming in to meet Jesus will be different to us, being at an earlier/different stage of their faith journey.

MC proposed an allocation of tithe

Flower Rotas

Behind the Communion Table **December**

- 1 Kathy & Chris MacKenzie
- 8 Rita Nutter (in memory of Alice and arr. By Ellen Inwood)
- 15 Christmas Flowers Team
- 22 Christmas Flowers Team
- 29 Christmas Flowers Team

January

- 5 Julie West
- 12 Mary Hadley
- 19 Rita Nutter (in memory of Keith and arr. By Ellen Inwood)
- 26 Ellen Inwood

Memorial Chapel **December**

- 19 Mrs Brenda Dixon

January

- 5 Mrs Marion Bates
- 12 Mrs Kelland in memory of her husband Brian
- 26 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

Thanksgiving

Friday 18 October

Sylvia Brandford [90]

Funerals

Tuesday 22 October

Gordon Edward Riseley [59]

Encompass, Street Pastors and Churches Together-proportions to be confirmed. TK requires relationships to be maintained with Lee and Petra, perhaps by video link, and that James Hawksworth is invited to visit St Mary's to talk about his work in Ipswich.

Safeguarding TK requires advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team regarding lockdown procedures. Our response must reflect the fact that we are a church; HA announced her resignation as Parish Safeguarding Officer. We cannot function as a charity without a safeguarding officer and future activities cannot take place unless this role is filled.

The Next PCC Meeting is on Sunday 8 December at 12.30pm in the Hall.

funds for HS's work which was unanimously approved. Other missional donations to be made to

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Annual Quiz - in aid of the Guild Bell Fund. Five different sections (not ringing related) so suitable for all. Closing date 28 February 2025. £1 from Pam in the Office/Belfry or 01933 313195.

Children's Society Quiz

Thank you to everyone who bought John's 'Ending in 'S' Quiz. It made a profit of £167 for the Children's Society Fund. Winner with all correct answers was Mrs J Piggott of Kettering. After a draw the runners up with 99 correct answers were Mrs D Denson of Lowestoft and Mrs J Joyce of Wellingborough.

John's next Quiz titled '**Name the Place**' is available from Pam: 01933 313195, Mary: 01933 315383, Joy: 01933 318415 and Samantha in the Church Office. Price £1. Closing date 30 April. This will be our penultimate Quiz. Thank you to everyone who supports us. Best Wishes from Joy.

Congratulations are due to

Paul Bailey who celebrates his Seventieth birthday on 29 December, Philippa Ackerley who celebrates her Sixtieth birthday on 30 December and to Michelle Smith celebrates her Sixtieth birthday on 26 January. Love and best wishes from all of us at St Mary's.



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

21 December & 18 January

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £5: children free

Crafts/Coffee and Tea In November we made Hanging Felt Birds (please see picture).

If you would like to join us our next meeting is **Tuesday 3 December 10am to 12noon** where we will be making '**Dolly Peg Angels**'. Also **Tuesday 7 January 10am to 12noon** where we will be making '**Needle Cases**'. For further information contact Helen: 07814 226614 or hfallan22@gmail.com



Newton News

Carol Singing in The Swan will be held on Monday 23 December at 7:30pm

Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6pm

Christmas Day Communion at 9am

Congratulations from St Peter's Church, Newton Bromswold to Josh and Rebecca on the safe arrival of Molly Jane, born on the 10 October, weighing 7lb 2oz. A lovely little sister for Arthur.

Pudding Night in The Swan on Saturday 25 January at 7:30pm. Tickets are £12.50 each and include

FLOWERS

December

- 1 Abigail Clarke
- 15 Rosemary Coulson and Abby Stannard

January

- 5 Mrs Hollis
- 19 Mrs Burt

three puddings and a glass of wine. For tickets contact Helen Lines 01933 315864.

Barn Dance will be held on Saturday 12 July 2025 starting at 7pm. Tickets Adults £12.50 and Children £5. Please contact June Clarke on 07703 476689 for tickets.



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Korean Link in good heart

Last month I was privileged to visit our link Church in Korea for the consecration of a new Bishop of Seoul, Bishop Elijah. His predecessor, Bishop Peter, had attended Bishop Debbie's welcome service in Peterborough earlier this year.

Our link relationship is in good heart. Since all the Korean bishops and their wives visited Northampton and Kettering a few years ago, we have welcomed students to camp at the Greenbelt Festival, provided a six-week placement for an ordinand and established three parish to parish partnerships. One of our clergy took a sabbatical at the Anglican university in Seoul.

I was made very welcome, joined worship in the now completed new Cathedral in Daejeon (it was a hard hat building site on my last visit!), and visited all three dioceses, including the port/resort city of Busan.

The consecration service which is available to view online was graced by four Archbishops, but our hosts kept talking about their connection with Peterborough and it was moving to realise how precious our relationship is to them.



In his inaugural address Bishop Elijah spoke humbly of the Bishop's calling to be a servant, helping the whole Church to flourish. He concluded; "When the Church is faithful to its identity, God will use it, no matter the challenges of the time. Let us strive to be a Church that reflects the Kingdom of God, serving with love and dedication."

With my prayers and best wishes,

Bishop John Holbrook
Bishop of Brixworth

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Tel: 01733 887000 Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk
www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Sylvia Brandford

by Rev Dr Glyn Ackerley



Sylvia was born on 27th November 1933, the first child of Edna and Ernest Hollingworth, in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. She always said that she had a happy childhood. It was not all plain sailing. When she was 6 her mum gave birth to their second child that Sylvia had decided would be called Margaret. She was initially a bit disappointed that her little sister turned out to be her brother, Trevor, but after a brief thought, she told the midwife that they could keep him - and they were good friends as adults and kept in touch regularly.

When she was 7 or 8 a distant relative gave her a violin. Her mother found a teacher, and this led to compulsory hourly violin practices every day which she did not enjoy – but she did become a very accomplished violinist. She went to orchestra camps as a teenager – an idea that her grandchildren find very entertaining – and through it she met David, her husband. Her parents went to the Salvation Army where brass instruments are featured so a violin was different. A Mr Brandford heard her play and invited her to Bury to play at the Salvation Army there. She stayed with Mr and Mrs Brandford, and it so happened that their son David, who was in the Air Force, was home on leave. He had already told his dad that he was not to be introducing him to any girls! But He met Sylvia, and that was it. They were married three years later – he was absolutely the love of her life, and they were together 60 years.

Sylvia and David had 2 sons, Paul and Peter and in 1964, when they were 8 and 6 years old respectively, the family sailed to South Africa and took the train to Zambia to work for the Salvation Army as they needed engineers and that was David's profession at the time. However, once there, he was given a completely different job, one not really suited to him. Then Sylvia found that she was pregnant again. So, they came back to the UK and lived temporarily with Sylvia's parents, Edna and Ernest in their little 2-bedroom bungalow. Their third child,

Philippa was born in December, always disappointed to have been born in Mansfield when she could have been born in Zambia which sounded much more exotic! After this they moved around the country with David's jobs but eventually settled in Rushden in 1970. Sylvia worked for a little at Wilkins and Denton, where she met Hilary who became one of her best friends. Her last job was working nights as a care assistant in Rushden Hospital. She worked hard all her life.

She loved to find the fun in life. She had a great sense of humour which could be quite sharp and dark, and which just occasionally was misunderstood by people and caused offence, which she would never do deliberately. Her laugh was memorable and joyful. It has been passed down and can be heard among the grandchildren.

She loved to make things. She taught her children to bake, sew and knit. She taught some of the grandchildren lacemaking. She embroidered cards for people. She knitted school jumpers, made dresses, she was rarely found doing nothing. In the evening when the TV was on, or there were quiet moments on her night shift at work, she would be knitting away.

She loved David, her husband. She was a very stay-at-home person. No one would have believed that she would ever leave Mansfield! But she loved David enough to follow him around the country and even to Zambia, with his work. He was the love of her life – and she was his. She knew that she had pushed herself too hard to look after him at the end of his life, but she said often that she would happily do it all again.

She loved to find the joy in life. She was gifted with being a 'Glass half full' person, very like her dad had been, which meant that she made the best of everything she could and always found the positives in life.

Which brings us to the greatest love in Sylvia's life. She loved her Lord. She had a very deep and profound faith in Christ. Obviously as she grew, her faith grew in depth and maturity and all her life, whatever she was involved in, she was serving Him. He came first. She read her bible and prayed every day. She brought her children to faith in Christ. She helped in Sunday schools in various places that she lived. She sang in the Salvation Army songsters and then in the choir at St Mary's when she and David started coming here. She helped at, then led, Mother's Union and started a choir among the ladies there. She and David were involved with the Gideons, who place Bibles in various institutions, and they gave sacrificially to God's work in various forms despite never having a great deal of money themselves. These are just some of the many things she did in serving the Lord Jesus.

Belfry Gossip

Owing to holidays and illness we have been ringing fewer bells, but managed to keep them going for Sunday Service.

On a summery day in September the Wellingborough Branch entered a band, heavily loaded with Rushden ringers, into the Guild Summer Festival 8-bell Striking Competition. After ringing at Everdon and Badby, the competition was held at Byfield where five bands and a youth band competed for the Harry Wooding Memorial Trophy. Following an excellent tea in the village hall, the results were announced: a Towcester band were judged the winners, and our Wellingborough Branch band was placed 2nd. This ended a good afternoon out.

In October some of the ringers attended the antepenultimate Guild Anniversary event- a glamorous and sparkly evening dinner, with speeches and merriment at Kettering Park Hotel.

It is not often, as ringers, we get requests to climb the tower and view the bells. So, when a Mexican family contacted the Church Office we were only too happy to oblige. Keiran and his family were all originally from Rushden. He met a Mexican lady studying abroad and they recently married in London. Before Juliana's family returned to Mexico they wanted to see where Keiran had grown up so both families came to Rushden for a visit. Alan gave a talk in the Church which was followed by trips up the tower and Pam rang a bell to demonstrate. They showed lots of interest as they have nothing like this in Mexico. We wish Keiran and Juliana all the best in their married life together.

We hosted a Branch practice which unfortunately had a low turnout of 9 people. The general consensus of those in attendance was that others had chosen to stay at home on a dark and wet evening to watch Strictly Come Dancing!!

In November, a Guild Quiz at Syresham village hall, attracted 15 teams, mostly of 6 people from all around the Guild area. Ringers from Rushden were in two different teams and more Wellingborough Branch ringers were in other teams. Halfway through the evening the Fish and Chip van arrived, and a super freshly cooked supper was served. The questions were set, asked, and marked by Simon and Cathy with the help of the excellent audio and projection system in the hall. Although the teams containing Rushden ringers didn't win, a team containing other branch ringers did get the highest score. A most enjoyable evening was held by everyone there.

On Remembrance Sunday our bells were rung half-muffled to remember the fallen.

After a few months recovering from his knee replacement operation, Paul has returned to the belfry whilst he awaits his other knee replacement.

Welcome back!

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Take care at the ATM. Be wary of people standing too close for comfort; try and use an ATM inside the bank.

If you stop for a coffee or a bite to eat, make sure your bags are under the table and between your feet. Don't leave your wallet, purse or phone in view on the table.

If you are shopping with the family, make sure everyone knows where and when to meet up and that mobile phones are charged and switched on.

Don't use mobile phones as you are walking along a street, they could be snatched out of your hand.

If you shop online, check out the site's payment methods and the security they offer. Third party payment accounts, such as PayPal, protect your bank details.

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or

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Church Diary - December 2024

- 1 **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.
- 2 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - 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 - Dolly Peg Angels, contact details on p7.
- 4 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 5 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 6 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 8 **Sunday: 12.30-2.30pm - PCC Meeting Lunch and benefice**
- 9 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in Church
Monday: 5.30-9pm - Visiting Bellringers 3 hour peal attempt
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.
- 11 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall
Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice in Church
- 12 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 13 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 14 **Saturday: 10am-12noon - Choir Coffee Morning with stalls and Carol Singing.**
- 15 **Sunday: 11.30am-1pm - Deep**
- 16 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in Church
- 18 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 19 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 20 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 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.
- 22 **Sunday: 10.30am - Nativity Service** in Church
Sunday: 6-7pm - Carols by Candlelight
- 27 **Friday: 7 - 8pm - Bellringing Practice**

Church Diary - January 2025

- 2 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 3 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 6 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - 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.
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- 23 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 27 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**
Monday: 6-7.30pm - Ignite Kids Club
- 29 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 30 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall

Services for December 2024

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 1 December - First Sunday of Advent

	Church Across the Morning	10.00am	Family Service
10.00am	Morning Prayer		
10.30am	Café style in the Hall		

Sunday 8 December - Second Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 15 December - Third Sunday of Advent

	Church Across the Morning	10.00am	Family Service
10.00am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Café style in the Hall		

Sunday 22 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30am	Joint Nativity Service	10.00am	Family Service
6.00pm	Carol Service		

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

6.00pm Carol Service

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

10.00am	Christmas Service	9.00	Christmas Service
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Sunday 29 December - First Sunday of Christmas

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

Thursdays - December 5, 12, 19, No service on 26
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

Services for January 2025

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 5 January - Second Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 12 January - First Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ

10.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 19 January - Second Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Worship

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26 January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays 10.30am on January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

- Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

St Mary's Sunday Services at 10.00 will continue to be live-streamed

and can also be found later on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden>.