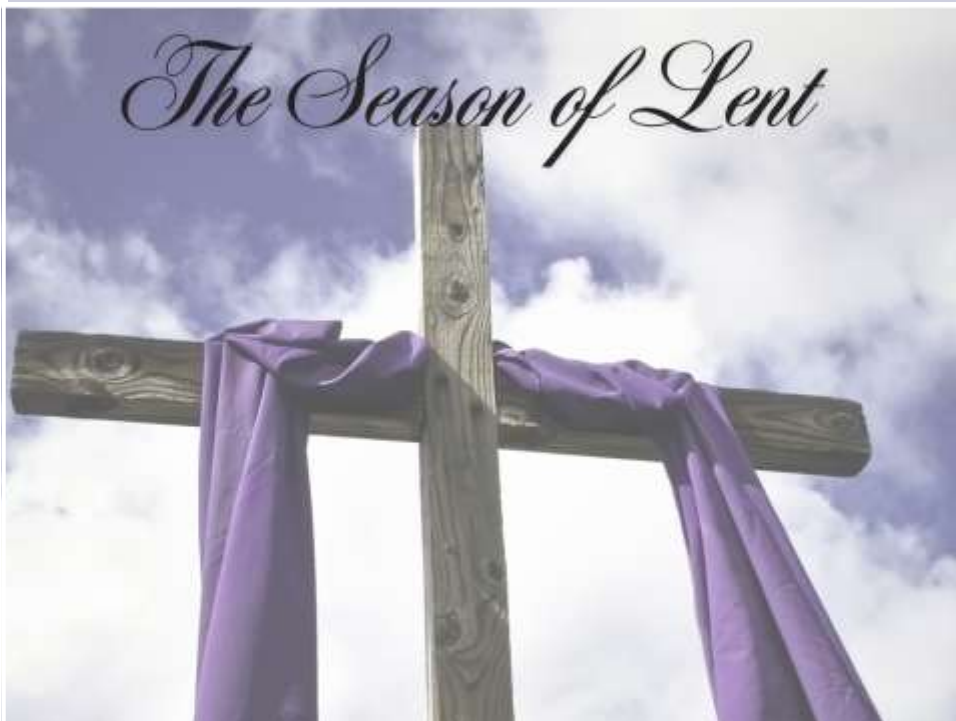


**Lent Newsletter**  
**February - March 2025**

*The Season of Lent*



**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  
April/May Newsletter  
should be sent by  
Sunday 16 March  
to  
St Mary's Church Office*



## Contents

Who's Who	2
From Tom King	3
Mission Matters	4
St Mary's News	5
Newton News	8
From Bishop of Brixworth	9
Northants Water Vole	11
Belfry Gossip	12
Neighbourhood Watch	15
Church Diary	17 & 18
Services in February	19
Services in March	20

## Tom King writes . . .

Dear all,

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you having had a blessed Christmas season so far. I say so far because traditionally the church finishes the season of Christmas at Candlemas on 2 February, forty days after Christmas. Some cultures still leave their Christmas decorations up 'til then'! Clearly, in this country, we no longer follow this in society at large, so we might ask what it's about, having perhaps forgotten some of the reason behind it. Candlemas traditionally was to celebrate the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. It was a thing that Hebrew parents did at the time; a rite of passage, required in Scripture, one of many (see Luke 2 for the story).



What matters most for us right now, however, is to remember that the story of Christmas doesn't finish with Christmas, or New Year. The story of Christmas is ongoing even now. Jesus is called 'the light of revelation' and 'God's salvation.' What he reveals, especially, is the hearts and motives of those who encounter him. Encountering the Good News of his birth, life, death and resurrection reveals that human motives prefer darkness, and we are far from God. We need only look around. In the 2000 years since then, not much has changed in the way humans treat each other.

But Jesus is 'God's salvation' – God gives him to us as a way back, a way out, the way into peace. Here in the Northern hemisphere, at this, the darkest time of year, it makes sense to remember that in both literal and figurative darkness, Jesus Christ appears to show a way back to God, to be the light in the darkness, and to be the means by which we can be saved into God's wonderful light.

# Mission Matters

Not easy, but...!

It is far from easy living for God in the Czechia where there are so few Christians. Lea and Petra feel that their efforts are small and fragile in the light of the challenges they face, but say, “We give thanks to God for the gracious and beautiful way he is at work in the lives of those we serve.” They thank all who faithfully pray for them and send warm greetings to all at St. Mary’s.

You will remember that when Russia invaded Ukraine many refugees arrived in the Czechia. Petra has been working with an agency called Vesna in the city of Brno and tells us that new arrivals are still coming every week, needing help in every way. She is keen to ensure that those who are traumatised are able to access emotional support and that children will not miss out on education. She asks us to pray.

News from the church led by Lea is good. Several new people are attending and others are growing in faith and preparing for baptism. His work amongst university students has also been rewarding. Now, as well as Bible studies in English, there are those held in Czech and Slovak. Students are sharing the Gospel with others, and we are asked to pray for those who are exploring faith for the first time.

Lea and Petra also ask us to pray for their daughter, Olivia, as she prepares to start secondary school. She is finding this a daunting prospect.

Thank you for bringing the requests mentioned here to the Lord, and please do keep praying for Lea and Petra, Olivia and Ted, and for the many people, young and old, students, refugees and neighbours amongst whom they live and with whom they share the love and truth of the Lord Jesus. And do give thanks to God for the ways in which he is blessing their faithful ministry in this spiritually needy land.

Sue Eagles, for the Mission Committee



# St Mary's News

## **Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025 in the Lower Vestry Hall.**

Present: Tom K, Helen S, Glyn A, Tony Sm, Louise S, Martin Co, Bob B, Marion B, and Peter Co.

Apologies received from James M, Kate W and Jennie B.

**Christmas experience**, HS reported that a large number of children visited the church from various schools in Rushden during December. The children enjoyed the experience, and they were told the Christmas story. HS is planning to run the Easter experience with the schools in the town in April.

**Finance**, LS reported a deficit of £38,670.00 for December. LS reported there are more bills to be paid before the year end accounts can be created.

LS advised the PCC that she will resign from the treasurer post in June 2025. We discussed the challenges that LS had as the Treasurer. We agreed the task was a lot for one person. The PCC thanked Louise for the work she had done as the Treasurer. Post her resignation Nula S, who works for the Diocese will maintain the church accounts.

**Safeguarding**, Helen A resigned from the post of safeguarding officer on the 31 of December 2024.

The church must have a safeguarding officer and Rev Tom has a potential candidate. The PCC agreed that Vicki K to co-ordinate with the Diocese safeguarding team to train a new safeguarding officer.

### **Fabric, Ecclesiastical Insurance.**

We received 3 recommendations from the insurance company from their due diligence discussion in December 2024 as follows:

Fire risk assessment. We will discuss with John M to perform a fire safety risk assessment.

Lightning source protection. This would allow the power to continue if the church was struck by lightning. The church electric wiring was to be reviewed during the Quinquennial inspection.

The Boiler with R.F Blount and Sons Ltd provided a quote to renew their boiler service contract for another year. We discussed the servicing of the boiler which must be done by industrial plumbing and heating specialists. The boiler does need to be serviced on an annual basis. The service agreement will cost £774. On a long-term basis, we need to look at using renewable energy.

The Upper Church Hall door broken window has had a contribution of £200 towards the repair. The actual cost of repairing the window will be £582.22.

## Flower Rotas

### *Behind the Communion Table*

#### **February**

- 2 Jude Curtis
- 9 Kathy & Chris MacKenzie
- 16 Mary Hadley
- 23 Barbara Coxon

#### **March**

- 2-23 No flowers in Lent
- 30 Lent - Mothering Sunday

### **Memorial Chapel**

#### **March**

- 30 Mothering Sunday - Mrs Brenda Dixon

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

The PCC agreed that the door and window was fitted when the hall was built so in need of a replacement. Sam will get 3 quotes and bring to PCC for a review.

Sound Desk, An additional channel is needed for the music group area. We have had issues with the Radio Mics which need attention. North porch access using the ramp, for disabled people using a wheelchair the only way they can get into the church is via the north porch is using a metal ramp. We discussed if the ramp needed to be

## THE REGISTERS

### **Baptism**

#### **Sunday 1 December**

Tarron Oscar Duval-Simpson

used all the time but there has been a number of complaints about the safety of using this ramp. We discussed and concluded that the ramp will be used when anyone visits the church using a wheelchair. This will remain in place for the entire service. The West door will now be opened for people who are unhappy about using the ramp in the North Porch. In addition, we must ensure there is no excessive wind flow through the church because of both doors being open.

On Monday 27 January Rev Tom K and R. Stainer met the church Quinquennial surveyor Adrian to discuss which church door can have a permanent ramp built to allow people wheelchair access to the church.

In the Sunday service the children will be in the choir vestry as the bell tower was too cold and dirty.

Illuminate, one year on and we are still getting good number of youths attending the meetings.

APCM this will be taking place after the Sunday service on 18 of May 2025.

## News

This year the electoral roll will need to be replaced. The electoral roll forms will be available at the back of the church for people to complete and managed by the church office.

The PCC away day will be taking place on the 14 of June 2025.

**The Next PCC Meeting is on Monday 17 February 7pm in the Lower Hall.**

**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** John's 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 ....** Peter White who celebrates his Ninetieth birthday on 3 February, Ann Smith her Eightieth birthday on 27 February, Alan Fitch his Ninetieth birthday on 28 February and to Peter Coxon his Eightieth birthday on 19 March. 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**

**15 February & 15 March**

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

**Adults £5; children free**

**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.

**Crafts/Coffee and Tea** If you would like to join us our next meeting is

**Tuesday 4 February 10am to 12noon** where we will be learning '**Crochet**'. Also **Tuesday 4 March 10am to 12noon**. For further information contact Helen: 07814 226614 or hfallan22@gmail.com

# Newton News

**Quiz Night** on Saturday 15 February, a Quiz Night will be held in The Swan, Newton Bromswold starting at 7:30pm. Entry fee is £10 for a team of 4 people.

**Mothering Sunday** on Sunday 16 March a special service for Mothering Sunday will be held at 9:30am.



## FLOWERS

### February

2 Helen Lines  
16 June Clarke

**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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# God rested – and so should we

I love the episode in the gospels when, after a long day, Jesus finds a quiet place to escape on his own. The disciples discover him and like rather fussy business managers badger him saying:

“Lord, everyone is looking for you”. He replies; “Let’s go somewhere else!” (Mark 1.35-38)

Even our Lord Jesus Christ, needed breaks to recover from the busyness of ministry, to refresh himself, to sleep and to pray. It was a vital part of his rhythm of life.

God set a model for this when, after six full days creating the universe, the seventh day was deliberately set aside for rest. (Genesis 2.2)

Keeping a healthy pattern of work and rest (and play) is vital for all of us. This means being careful to protect Days Off and Holidays from the encroachment of work and helping each other to balance work and recreation. Clergy and laity can support good practice in looking after ourselves appropriately. In addition, clergy are encouraged to take study leave (“sabbatical”) every seven years for personal and

professional development.

I am really grateful that the Church has granted me three months sabbatical leave from January to March next year. For half this time, I will serve as a Chaplain with the Missions to Seafarers and for the remainder will focus on catching up with my theological reading.

My colleague in the Bishops’ Office, Suzanne Carter, will continue to look after the diary in preparation for my return in April. I look forward to Church and School visits and Mission Weekends later in the year.

With my prayers and best wishes,



The Rt Revd John Holbrook  
Bishop of Brixworth



## Carols by Candlelight

This beautiful service was well attended, as our congregation together gathered in joyous spirit to listen to lessons and sing wonderful carols in celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jubilantly the choir lead the congregation in song and the Spirit of the Lord was truly with us. Rev Tom King spoke with enthusiasm about the Christmas message and ended with a Christmas blessing.

The congregation were later invited to join one another for refreshments that was most welcome by many.

*Chris MacKenzie*



I am going to Cyprus for a 4-week holiday flying from Manchester Airport. This is to celebrate 50 years from 1975 when I was an RAF Fire Fighter (1975-1977). While I was there, Turkey had invaded the island, and it is still one of the divided islands, with Korea. Archbishop Makarios was the political leader in those days. RAF Akrotiri is still an operational base.

*David Robinson*

## Reminder

The Clocks go forward

**30 March**



To advertise in the Newsletter contact  
**St Mary's Church Office on**  
01933 412235 or [stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com)  
Prices start at only £25 per year

# Northants water vole comeback starts with release at Nene Wetlands

A few weeks ago 116 water voles bred in captivity were released to the nature reserve and more will follow next year. The release was funded and licensed by Natural England as part of its Species Recovery Programme.

Water voles in Northamptonshire are now restricted to a few isolated colonies. The last records for the area around Nene Wetlands Nature Reserve are from around the year 2000. The Wildlife Trust has been working with partners in the county including Stanwick Lakes country park and Water Resources East to create the right conditions for water voles return. It is hoped that this project will be the start of a meta population of water voles which can then expand across Northamptonshire.

Matt Johnson, Wildlife Trust BCN Conservation Manager, said: “It’s fantastic to see water voles return to the Nene Wetlands – we hope that this is the start of their comeback in the county.”

“When we took on this reserve over ten years ago water voles were one of the key species that we wanted to see back here so it’s really exciting to see them coming out of their Pringles tubes and making their way back into the wild where they should be.

Water voles have suffered in the UK in recent years. Their numbers have been dramatically shrank as a result of habitat loss and the impact of invasive mink along waterways.”



# Belfry Gossip

This period began with Alan climbing up to the belfry to remove the muffles from our Remembrance Day ringing; thanks to Alan for this as well as ongoing observation and maintenance, which is crucial to keep the ringers safe and the bells in good working order.

We've reached the end of the Guild's Centenary year, and what a year it's been! Cathy has been at the heart of much of the planning and organisation, ensuring the celebrations were a great success. Thank you for your dedication and creativity.

After a previous unsuccessful attempt, a peal of 5100 changes of Wellingborough Surprise Major (the length ending 100 composed for the centenary) was successfully completed at Rushden in December; this was part of a series of 10 Centenary Peals in which a Surprise Major method sharing it's name with a Branch of the Guild was rung at a Tower within that Branch.

The final Anniversary event, held at Towcester, was a Carol Service with a bellringing theme. There was ringing on 12 bells (ringing on this many bells was a first for several attendees); Cat read Malcolm Guite's poem "New Year's Day: Church Bells"; the Address reflected on bellringing as a form of ministry; and, of course, there was a final celebration cake. The service and celebration was a fitting end to a remarkable year.

Our Branch annual Christmas quiz proved to be as enjoyable as ever, not least for the delicious buffet, with Brenda (among others) putting in great effort to make it a success. Congratulations to the Rushden team for winning – well done to all involved!

Paul celebrated his 70th birthday and after an early practice night we joined Paul and Pam at home for merriment and a Christmas buffet. A great time was had by all! We also rang a Quarter Peal to celebrate on his actual birthday.

Sometimes we're short of ringers, with absences due to ill health and work commitments. We're grateful for the support from our friends at nearby towers, but even one or two absences can risk cancellations in a small band. If you or someone you know is interested in learning to ring, please get in touch with Brenda or Pam – we'd love to hear from you!

*Tintinnabulum*



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# Neighbourhood Watch Booking a holiday?

A few thoughts so you can go away and enjoy your holiday.

Make your home look occupied. Ask a neighbour to move post away from your letterbox – important if you have a glass pane in your door.



Put some lights on a timer switch to make your house look occupied. You can also get timer switches for a radio or TV.

Be careful about posting on Facebook and other social media that you are away. Selfies posted from the beach are a sure-fire way to tell everyone you know that your house is empty!

Tell your neighbours you are going away and consider letting a neighbour park on your driveway.

Lock the front door and have a great time but remember to leave your contact details with a trusted neighbour.



## BELLRINGING

Are you interested in learning to ring?

or

Did you ring before and like to return.

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# Church Diary - February 2025

- 2 **Sunday: 10.30am - Christingle**  
**Sunday: 12noon-1.30pm - 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.
- 3 **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.
- 4 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Crochet, contact details on p7.
- 5 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 6 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 7 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 10 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - 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.
- 12 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall  
**Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 13 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 14 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 15 **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.
- 16 **Sunday: 12noon-1.30pm - Deep**
- 19 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 20 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 21 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 24 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in Church  
**Monday: 6-7.30pm - Ignite Kids Club**
- 26 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 27 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 28 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**

# Church Diary - March 2025

- 2 **Sunday: 12noon-1.30pm - 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.
- 3 **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 church hall, where the children and parents can take part in craft activities or play. £1.50 per family. We also serve beans on toast afterwards 11.30am-12.30pm.
- 4 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall
- 5 **Wednesday: 7pm - Ash Wednesday**
- 6 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 7 **Friday: 2pm - World Day of Prayer** at the Salvation Army, Rushden.  
**Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 10 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - 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 and more. £1.50 per session, plus extra for tuck.  
Further information please contact Paula 07505 381389.
- 12 **Wednesday: 12.30-2pm - Lent Lunches**  
**Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall  
**Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 13 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall  
**Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 15 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - for male carers and their younger children 0-6yrs Adults £5: children free.
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- 31 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**

# Services for February 2025

St Mary's  
Rushden

St Peter's  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 2 February - Presentation of Christ

10.30am Christingle

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 9 February - Fourth Sunday before Lent

10.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 16 February - Third Sunday before Lent

10.30am Family Worship

9.30am Holy Communion

## Sunday 23 February - Second Sunday before Lent

Giving Sunday

9.30am Family Service

10.30am Morning Worship

## Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays - February 6, 13, 20, 27

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 March 2025

**St Mary's**  
Rushden

**St Peter's**  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 2 March - Sunday Next before Lent

10.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Service

## Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Ash Wednesday

## Sunday 9 March - First Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 16 March - Second Sunday of Lent

10.30am Family Worship

9.30am Mothering Sunday/  
Holy Communion

## Sunday 23 March - Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 30 March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

10.30am Mothering Sunday

9.30am Family Service

## *Midweek Services in St Mary's Church*

Thursdays 10.30am on March 6, 13, 20 and 27

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