

**Easter Newsletter  
April - May 2025**



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

# Who's Who

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**Rev Dr Glyn Ackerley**

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**Helen Smedley**

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**Readers:** Tony Smith and James Mellor

**Hall Bookings:** Pam & Paul Bailey

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**St Mary's Church Office**

Tues--Thurs: 10.00-12noon:

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**Newton Bromswold Churchwardens**

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

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*Items for the  
June/July Newsletter  
should be sent by  
Sunday 11 May  
to  
St Mary's Church Office*



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## Glyn Ackerley writes . . .

During the season of Easter people might ask us why we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

I could give you a very long and detailed answer, too big for this Newsletter. But briefly...

The Resurrection is recorded in the four gospels of the New Testament. (See Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20.) While they say some different things that some people see as contradictions, in my own careful study the details of the gospels can be harmonised.

Two books that have helped are *Easter Enigma* by John Wenham and the *Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel.



After His resurrection, many people saw Jesus alive, including a group of 500. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-9; Luke 24:13-35.)

The accounts of the resurrection in the gospels include factors that wouldn't have included in a story that had been just 'made up.' Such as the fact that the first witnesses of the resurrection were women. In the culture of that time, the testimony of a woman would not have been thought of as valid evidence. But to us the testimony of the women is compelling. (See Matthew 28:1-10; John 20:11-18.)

Jesus' resurrection was foretold by many statements made by the Old Testament Prophets centuries before (See Isaiah 53; Psalm 22:14-18; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 16:10.)

Even Jesus' own half-brother, James who was deeply sceptical of Jesus during Jesus' ministry became a follower of Jesus after the resurrection and eventually became the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. (See Mark 3:21, 31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; James 1:1.)

The effect of the resurrection on the disciples was amazing. After Jesus crucifixion and death, they hid in fear. But when they realised Jesus was alive, they were willing to die a martyr's death because of their faith. Eleven of the Twelve did die that way. Why make up the story of the resurrection if it wasn't true, it would have been pointless and a surefire way to get killed yourself. (See Mark 14:50; Acts 5:17-41; Philippians 3:4b-11.)

These are just some of the reasons why for me the resurrection of Jesus is true.

# Mission Matters

**“ ... as sparks fly upwards.”**

Poor, suffering Job must have felt SO much better after his friend, Eliphaz, reminded him that, “Man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upwards.”! ( Job 5:7)

Sadly, though, it is true that this beautiful world which God spoke into being has been horribly marred by humanity’s sin and that none of us is immune from pain and distress. Today, many millions worldwide, not only those who make news headlines, are enduring unspeakable trauma.

Both Tearfund and the Church Mission Society have drawn our attention to the Democratic Republic of Congo where conflict is driving people from their homes, and causing them to flee on foot in the hope of reaching safety. Some have died and families have been separated in the chaos, with parents not knowing if their children are dead or alive.

Both Tearfund and CMS, together with local church partners, are working to support people in dire need. Let’s join them in praying for true and lasting peace and stability for the DRC and the wider region and for the wellbeing of all who are suffering so terribly. Let’s pray too for their staff and local partners that the Lord will protect and strengthen them and enable them to be channels of God’s love and care to all around them.

Please check out the websites for Tearfund and CMS if you feel that the Lord is asking you to donate towards his work in this area.

Sue Eagles



# St Mary's News

## **Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 17 March 2025 in the Lower Vestry Hall.**

Present: Tom K, Helen S, Glyn A, Tony Sm, Martin Co, Bob B, Marion B, and Peter Co, James M, and Kate W. Apologies from Jennie B and Louise S

**APCM,** The electoral roll forms are available at the back of the church to be completed and submitted by 31 March 2025.

The food hygiene inspection report was discussed. We agreed that the church is not registered as a business and does not charge for any meals served in the hall. This means we are compliant with the conditions of the recent hygiene rating. The PCC thanked Jean Bass and Peter Coxon for their hard work to ensure the kitchen was clean.

**Finance,** The Gift day took place at the Sunday service on 2 March 2025. We discussed that the gift day will take place annually in February with envelopes available for anonymous giving and for gift aid.

The 2024 annual report and accounts are currently being created and finalised. We are expecting to appoint the same auditor again.

We agreed to set up a finance group with the members being Marion, Bob, Martin, Peter and Kate. The group will meet as soon as possible with Nuala prior to her taking over

the finance role. The group will create a budget for the rest of 2025 and report to the PCC.

The church debit cards, and Pin numbers have been received for the church accounts. We agreed that the annual Microsoft licence will be paid using the church debit card.

**Safeguarding,** National Survey. The diocese and national church have sent out a survey for parishioners to complete about the standard of safeguarding in their church. Vikki King has been approved by the diocese to be the temporary safeguarding officer at St. Mary's church. We do have a person who is going through the process of being a safeguarding officer and will be trained by Vikki King. Tom King provided a refresher course to the volunteers who will be assisting with Church Easter experience.

**Safeguarding Audit.** The diocese and National Church have agreed that an audit will take place on how each church manages safeguarding. This will be completed by 30 April 2025.

**Fabric,** The church office distributed three quotes to the PCC to replace the upper church hall doors. We discussed the three quotes. The PCC appointed Prestige Plastics Limited at a cost of £3,347.75 to remove the wooden doors and replace with UPVC doors with laminated glass.

## Flower Rotas

### *Behind the Communion Table*

#### **April**

- 6 Lent
- 13 Lent
- 20 Easter Flower Team
- 27 Jude Curtis

#### **May**

- 4 Marion Bates
- 11 Mary Hadley
- 18 Ellen Inwood
- 25 Susan Collins (*arranged by Ann Harris*)

#### **Memorial Chapel**

*If you would like to give flowers in memory of loved ones please*

**Disabled Access,** The plans for creating disabled access to the West and North doors and the lowering of the level in the priority seating area had been circulated to the PCC members. The North porch plan to raise the path level from the North Transept to the same level as the church main door. This would involve widening the pathway and providing a rail and steps to access to the path that leads to the north gate.

Reducing the level in the priority seating area to be the same level as the church floor. This will involve removing the wooden platform and

## THE REGISTERS

### **Funerals**

#### **Friday 21 February**

Joan Margaret Walker [95]

#### **Monday 24 February**

Graham Inwood [86]

#### **Friday 14 March**

Melvyn Hunter [71]

#### **Wednesday 19 March**

Yim Ping (Sally) Templeman [91]

providing a solid floor.

To allow for a long term plan to have a kitchen facility and toilet in the choir vestry, a water pipe will be laid under the floor. The pipe can be laid when the path is being worked on for disabled access.

**Quinquennial inspection,** The full inspection took place on 7 March 2025, we are awaiting the full quinquennial inspection report.

**The next PCC Meeting is on Monday 7 April 7.00 pm in the Lower Hall.**

**A Big Thank You** In 1971 Gloria Wagstaff started to deliver the Grapevine Magazine every month and just recently the Newsletter every two months. After 54 years she has decided to retire. We thank

Gloria for her commitment, dedication and loyalty to St Mary's which is truly appreciated. Love and best wishes from us all at St Mary's.

**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.

**'About Time'**, John's final Quiz will be available from early May. Since he first began to compile them in 2003 they have raised over £16,000 for the Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over this time. A big thank you to all those who have taken time to sell them and a special thank you to Pam and Paul without whose help I would not have been able to continue since John's death in 2019. My best wishes to you all. Joy

**Congratulations are due to ....** Alan Marks who celebrates his Eightieth birthday on 2 May and Paula Williams her Sixtieth birthday on 4 May. Also to Tony and Sonia Stock who celebrate their Twentieth Wedding Anniversary on 28 May. 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**

**19 April & 17 May**

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

**Adults £5; children free**

**Do you love to SING?** Why don't you join St Mary's choir. You do not need to read music, a good ear is helpful. Come along to choir practice on Wednesday evenings at 7pm for an hour. Try us out without obligation. Meet the friendly bunch of choristers. **All ages from 8yrs are welcome!**

**Crafts/Coffee and Tea** If you would like to join us our next meeting is **Tuesday 1 April 10am to 12noon** where we will be making '**Easter Cards**'. Also **Tuesday 6 May 10am to 12noon** making '**Weather Worms**'. For further information contact Helen: 07814 226614 or [hfalan22@gmail.com](mailto:hfallan22@gmail.com)

# Newton News

**Cowslip and Fritillary** will be held on Saturday 12 April and Sunday 13 April from 2pm to 4pm. Plants for sale and Afternoon tea.

**APCM** will be held on Sunday 13 April after the church service starting at 10:30am.

**Barn Dance** will be held on Saturday 12 July starting at 7pm. Tickets cost adult £12.50 and children £5. Please contact June for tickets on 07703476689.

## FLOWERS

### April

20 Sarah

### May

4 Julie Allan

11 Helen Mayes

18 Helen Rees-Bidder

25 Rosemary Coulson and Abby Stannard

**Congratulations** to Arabella and Gus on the safe arrival of Basil Maxwell Christopher Allen, born on Friday 28th February at Homerton hospital in London weighing 8lbs 6 oz.



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## Start where you are

Nothing seems to have caused more upset over recent months than the meeting in the Oval Office between the President of the United States (and his entourage) and the President of Ukraine. Personally, I found it very painful to watch, but what can I do? Perhaps we are too often left in total frustration or helpless anger as world-shaping news seeps into the security of our living rooms. Here's the good news: Just because you can't change everything doesn't mean you can't change anything.

When I was a curate in Bristol Diocese, the former Archbishop of York, Stuart Blanch, visited the curates and asked how many of us were working in large parishes. Many of us dutifully raised our hands. He said, "Just because you can't visit everybody doesn't mean that you can't visit anybody." That principle is true in a number of areas of life. Just because you cannot bring peace to the Middle East or to Ukraine, does not mean that you cannot work for peace in your family, or amongst your work colleagues, or in your community, or even in your church. Start where you are.

When Jesus left his disciples, he told them to begin changing the world

where they were (in Jerusalem) and then move on from there, to the ends of the earth. That's great advice. Start where you are. In the 6th Century BC, the Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu, said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Take that single step. However helpless we feel when watching the news and however appalled we are at the conduct of leaders, we can start to make a difference where we are.

Jesus said, "If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." Most of us can manage a cup of cold water. Start where you are and, in this year of prayer, surround your action in prayer. Like the young boy at the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand', put your offering into Jesus's hands and watch him do extraordinary things.



The Venerable Richard Ormston  
Archdeacon of Northampton

# Easter Experience

The Easter Experience ran over the last two weeks of March, where the local primary schools were invited to participate in an interactive trail about the Easter story, set up around St Mary's with involvement of several churches across Rushden. There were also Easter investigation workshops offered as school visits.

In total, 1121 children, plus the teachers and parent volunteers, have heard the gospel over the last two weeks.

A big thanks goes to the team who's hard work has made this possible, and we are all extremely excited to continue working with the schools and offer more opportunities to learn who Jesus is and what he has done for us.



**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.



# Rushden artisan market in honour of St George's Day to return to town centre in 2025

**A variety of bakers, local traders, artists and food vendors will join the St George's Day celebrations in Rushden next month as an artisan market is set to take place on April 26.**



The event will be the third of its kind, with the 2024 artisan market attended by stalls from the likes of Happy Mondays Coffee, The Moulton Handmade Company and

The Crafty Noo, and this year's event will hope to foster a sense of community, too, by once again taking place in the High Street three days after the big day.

A Rushden Town Council spokesman said: "We have a variety of stalls including handcrafted goods, unusual gifts and of course delicious artisan food. St George will be making an appearance after his busy day of dragon slaying on April 23.

"Please join us to support our fantastic local High Street traders and the artisan stall holders."

More information, can be found by contacting Rushden Town Council at [info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01933 316216.

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

# Belfry Gossip

In January we held our tower AGM, in place of a Friday night practice. We had plenty of business to discuss, followed by a delicious, shared buffet. Hosted by Sarah and Jim - thank you. It has been a challenging year to try and ring all 8 bells and methods, with various absences and other personal commitments, so we've set a new course for learning methods as a band. We are going to focus on one new method until we've managed to ring it well, rather than setting time limits to start a new method. We hope to have occasional special practices, inviting other local ringers, to encourage visitors to join us when we've learnt the new method. Our first method is Carlisle Surprise Minor and we're working on learning this and ringing it to a good standard. We discussed socials and other ringing plans for our tower as well as opportunities we will get involved with such as Striking Competitions and special practices held at other towers.

Our Branch AGM was held at Irthlingborough and by all accounts was a great afternoon with an excellent tea. An item of note from the Branch AGM was the change from an intense week of Quarter Peals once per year to a focus on regular Quarter Peals rotating around the towers throughout the year. Also, we mentioned last year whether Thrapston Branch would be too small to self-sustain, and join up with our Branch, but they have had an increase in members and are able to continue as their own Branch.

We had visiting ringers to Rushden from Blewbury in Berkshire. Most ringers enjoy the opportunity to try different bells, which gives different experiences and perspectives, and tests a range of skills as every ring of bells has its own unique challenges and advantages.

Paul has now had his second knee replacement operation and we wish him a speedy recovery so he can once again climb the spiral stairs to the ringing room!

We rang after the funeral of Joan Walker as requested by her family. Joan was part of St Mary's congregation and a choir member for over 30 years.

Some of our members attended the Branch Surprise Practice which was held at Burton Latimer and the general Branch practice at Wilby - both were well attended with plenty of opportunities for everyone to ring.

*Tintinnabulum*



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## 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



# Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Advice

**At Home:** Keep front and back doors locked at all times – even when you are at home or in your back garden. If you are out in the evening make sure you leave a light on and draw the curtains. If it's dark before you get home, use timer switches to turn on the lights. Light up your front door with dusk to dawn lighting – make sure it's visible from the street. Keep keys and valuables out of sight and reach, from cat flaps, letterboxes and downstairs doors and windows. If you have a burglar alarm, use it! Cut back plants in your garden so your home is not hidden.



**Your Car:** Always keep your car locked and close the windows – even if you are only leaving the vehicle for a few moments. Always remove all items from your vehicle when parked – even an old coat may be enough to tempt a thief. Ensure when removing your sat nav, that the cradle and suction pad are also removed and any suction marks are wiped away. Never leave keys in the ignition, not even at a garage when paying for petrol. Keep keys safe at all times, whether you're out or at home. Use a faraday pouch, it effectively blocks all signals which prevent criminals from using key fob skimming tools to access your vehicle.

**Yourself:** Stick to well lit, busy areas and main routes; don't be tempted to use short cuts. Stay with friends and avoid walking alone at night. Stay aware of your surroundings and what's going on around you. Keep your valuables out of sight. Don't walk and talk/text on your mobile. Always let someone know where you are going, how they can contact you and when you are likely to be back.



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# Church Diary - April 2025

- 1 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Easter Cards, contact details on p7.
- 2 **Wednesday: 12.00-2pm - Lent Lunches**  
**Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 3 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 4 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 6 **Sunday: 12noon-1.30pm - Deep** meeting 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.  
**Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering** for a link please email the church office on [stmaryschurchoffice@binternet.com](mailto:stmaryschurchoffice@binternet.com)
- 9 **Wednesday: 12.00-2pm - Lent Lunches**  
**Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall  
**Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 10 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 11 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 13 **Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 16 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 17 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 19 **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.
- 20 **Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 23 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 24 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 25 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 27 **Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 28 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in Church  
Where we 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, Come and join us. £1.50 per family. We serve Beans on toast afterwards.  
**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.
- 30 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church

# Church Diary - May 2025

- 1 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 2 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 4 **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.  
**Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 6 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Weather Worms, contact details on p7.
- 7 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 8 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 9 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 11 **Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 12 **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.  
**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.
- 14 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - Meet in the Church Hall  
**Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 15 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 16 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 17 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - for male carers and their younger children 0-6yrs Adults £5: children free.
- 18 **Sunday: 12noon-1.30pm - Deep**  
**Sunday: 1.30pm - APCM**  
**Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 19 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in Church
- 21 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 22 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 23 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 25 **Sunday: 8pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering**
- 28 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 29 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 30 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**

# Services for April 2025

St Mary's  
Rushden

St Peter's  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 6 April - Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 13 April - Palm Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

## Friday 18 April - Good Friday

11.00am Churches Together  
(outside if fine)

2.00pm Hour at the Cross

## Sunday 20 April - Easter Day

10.30am Family Service and  
Holy Communion

9.30am Easter Service

## Sunday 27 April - Low Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

## Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays - April 3, 10, 17, 24  
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 May 2025

**St Mary's**  
Rushden

**St Peter's**  
Newton Bromswold

## Sunday 4 May - Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 11 May - Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Service

## Sunday 18 May - Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Family Worship

9.30am Holy Communion

## Sunday 25 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

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

Thursdays 10.30am on May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

- 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>.