

Spring Newsletter

April - May 2026



**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

St Mary's Churchwarden:

Dan Smedley, 11 Park Place, Rushden, NN10 0RR

07904 465019

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: 10.30am-12.30pm:

Samantha Nagel, Pam Bailey, Kathy MacKenzie

01933 412235

email: stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com

website: www.stmaryschurchrushden.org

facebook: [stmaryschurchrushden](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchrushden)

instagram: [rushdenstmarys](https://www.instagram.com/rushdenstmarys)



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

Contents

*Items for the
June/July Newsletter
should be sent by
Sunday 17 May
to
St Mary's Church Office*

Who's Who	2
Jose Smith	3
Belfry Gossip	4
St Mary's News	6
Newton News	9
the Venerable Richard Ormston	11
Mission Matters	12
Other News & Events	13
Neighbourhood Watch	15
Church Diary	17 & 18
Services in April	19
Services in May	20

Jose Smith by Glyn Ackerley

Jose was born in 1939. She had been involved with St Mary's all of her life. At age 4, she attended St Mary's Sunday School; she remembered those years as really happy times. Sunday school flower festivals were a special memory to Jose, best dresses, baskets of flowers followed by a parade around the parish ending with a service in church. Jose joined 'Discoverers' when she was 8, which took place in the vestry hall. It was led by Sister Thornley of the Church Army, who was a church worker in those days. Jose's mum helped at those meetings and took Jose's father as well. Alongside discoverers, Jose was a brownie, and many happy times were spent at concerts and plays which were put on as a church function. Jose later went to guides and YPF, which was held at the curate's flat at the old Rectory. Geoff & Cynthia Shaw led the YPF meetings, and Jose remembered them with great affection. YPF was a very encouraging group for Jose with bible studies, and prayer, a great foundation for her developing faith. At Age 15, Jose became a Sunday school teacher. She perceived this was the time she truly became a Christian believer, receiving Jesus into her life at a local Billy Graham Mission meeting in 1954. She was confirmed that year. Her faith remained with her throughout her whole life. She didn't have to look very far for support during her life, as her parents were true Christians and loved Jesus.

Jose's work life commenced as a shop assistant at the Co-op drapery in the High Street. Then she worked for Roe Brothers haberdashery on the corner of Coffee Tavern Lane. She then worked at Freeman, Hardy and Willis shoe shop in the High Street. Jose stopped work when she had Mark, and then two years later, Mellissa. Jose later went back to work at Rushden Hospital as a cleaning supervisor. She eventually became a care assistant to the elderly until she retired in 2004. Jose looked after her mum as well from 1977, moving into her mum's house to care for her until 1981. It's fair to say that Jose had a hard life, but she was as upbeat as she could be, with her constant use of humour. Jose loved her family, who called her Jo. Jose was very frequently in Mrs B's café. There she kept her eye on the church. Jose, motivated by her faith in Jesus, was a constant servant to the church. Serving on the PCC for many years and being Church Warden from 2005 to 2010, most of those years alongside John Allen. Jose had encyclopaedic knowledge of Church Things. When her brother Peter had a stroke, she took over his role as Verger, helping with funerals and services in church. She also set up the Thursday Communion every week, she used to lighten difficult moments with her outrageous sense of humour. I miss her, but I will see her beyond the grave, I know.

Belfry Gossip

We've been ringing every Friday practice and for Sunday service, usually on 6 bells, and a variety of well known methods as well as starting to learn York Surprise Minor which is our new special method.

Our Branch AGM was held at Moulton and was fairly uneventful. Bob from Higham Ferrers thanked Pam for all her hard work organising the monthly quarters for the Higham Farmers' Markets over the past 10 years and ongoing, for her role as Press Correspondent, her work on various committees over many years and congratulated her on her 70th birthday.

The Chairman thanked Simon and Cathy for all their hard work in setting up a variety of training sessions over the last few years, in their role as training officers. They have now stepped down from this role.

Pam's birthday celebrations included a Quarter Peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major on 22nd January with ringing friends from Rushden and further afield.

At our tower AGM, we reviewed the past year and reflected on how much we've achieved as a small band - it shows the effort we each put in to support and be involved the best we can.

We re-elected our officers and made plans for the year ahead, including a new special method, quarter peals and 1/8th peals, social events and involvement in the wider guild activities and ringing opportunities.

We discussed recruitment and promotion for returning previous ringers, as we aren't in a position to support brand new beginners.

We discussed a challenge facing many bell towers today, of wet ropes, since churches are less frequently occupied and remain cooler. This causes difficulty handling bells and increases risk of damaging our hands. We are reviewing a variety of solutions and examples from neighbouring towers for the most cost effective, safe and suitable for our setting, to store the ropes in a way which keeps them dry in between ringing sessions, and remain fit for purpose.

When the meeting closed we promptly moved on to our celebration of Pam's 70th! A couple of our regular supporting ringers joined us for a delicious spread, lots of chatting, reminiscing and a few hearty laughs.

Teams of ringers from across the Guild met at Nether Heyford Village Hall to test the grey matter with our annual quiz and fish and chip supper. A team which included Rushden ringers won - well done!
Several of our ringers supported the branch practices with 19 ringers in total at Wilby for treble bob methods & 14 ringers at Wollaston, and a variety of methods rung for all abilities.

Tintinnabulum



Interested in flower arranging?

Have you noticed the displays regularly produced by our team of volunteers behind the Communion Table?
Would you like to join this special group?
Commitment only once every two months

Interested?

Contact Kathy on 07990 836217 in the first instance.

St Mary's News

Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 16 March 2026 in the Church Hall.

Attendees: Dan S, Martin Co, Bob B, Marion B, Peter Co, Helen S, Rev Tom K, and James M

Ebound have repaired the Church roof alarm and now awaiting the bill.

Gift Day 22 February 2026 R. Bates reported £7,292 including Gift Aid tax was raised. We agreed that the gift day was a success and will be performed on an annual basis.

Finance The 2025 annual reports have been completed with a small surplus as result of an increase in the value of the shares and a reduction in the Parish share. This comment will be included in the Treasurer's report. R. Bates confirmed that we are using the reserves to fund running the church. On the Sunday service of the 20 September 2026 James M will provide an update on the church finances.

Fabric Upper Church Hall door. Prestige Plastics provided a new quote but the DAC objected to the type of glass recommended. Dan S is following up with Prestige.

Disabled Access. The DAC has approved the faculty and now with the Registrars. The notice has been on display and has not received any objections. We have to make amendments to remove the step access on the path from the North

Porch to the gate. There will be no requirement for an archaeological inspection. Access to the church will be an issue when the work starts. We discussed holding the services in the Church Hall and also creating a temporary ramp to access the West door. We are expecting the contractors to provide guidance on this issue. We can apply for a grant to contribute to the cost of this project. The cost is expected to be around £30,000 but may be higher.

Quinquennial Electrical work. Gary F inspected the electrical work and quoted £11,100.

Church Clock Automatic Winders (AW). A faculty has been granted and now with the registrar. Rushden town council are investigating providing a contribution to the cost.

Replacement of Guttering on transept roof. The faculty has been approved and is waiting for a quote for the cost of repair.

Church Hall Inventory. Dan S has been reviewing the church inventory and is currently recording the information on his laptop. When this has been completed he will be asking for assistance to confirm that we still have all the recorded items. This was last completed in 2018.

The Tree in Park Place has several branches impacting the telephone line. Dan S to arrange for the tree to be trimmed.

Flower Rotas

Behind the Communion Table

April

- 5 Easter Flower Team
12 Ellen Inwood
19 Paula Williams
26 Jude Curtis

May

- 3 Mary Hadley
10 Kathy & Chris
17 Julie West
24 Susan Collins
(Arr. by Ann Harris)
31 Marion Bates

Memorial Chapel

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

Safeguarding No major updates. Emily is now taking on more safeguarding responsibilities and is expected to attend PCC in the future. Dan S or Emily to contact the Diocese on Co training for PCC members.

Children's work The Easter experience had issues with double booking of schools. Helen S to investigate how the booking system can be improved. Otherwise, it is going well. Illuminate will be taking youths for a one-week summer camp in August called Limitless. The cost will be £149 per youth. The PCC

THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Friday 13 March

Percy Thomas George
Greenough [83]

Thanksgiving

Tuesday 24 February

Jose Smith [86]

Interment of Ashes

Thursday 19 February

Elizabeth Bullen

Baptisms

Sunday 15 February

Lauren Owens
David Andrew Phillip Loveridge
Chantell Audrey Allen

Confirmations

Sunday 15 February

Luke Loynes
Carl Michael Collis

agreed to contribute from the designated Mission fund for £500 for the Illuminate week summer camp in August. Also £500 for Rushden Life mission 2026, A total of £1000.

Helen S Children's work. Helen is looking to continue her study for a third year. This will impact her ministry.

News

Shelia Tansley It was comforting to see so many of you at Derick's funeral and I would like to thank everyone for your donations. £207.21 was raised for the RSPB.

Rushden life Mission 2026 Helen S attended a meeting on 10 March 2026 concerning St Mary's, we will be hosting the following: Music played by Harpist Catherine Porter followed by Cheese and Wine on Saturday 4 July 2026. Helen S is looking for volunteers to assist on the day as welcomers, servers and help set up for the Harpist to perform. The Tickets will be £10 each. There will be three Christianity explored courses in August to be held at our church.

APCM 2026 will take place during the service on Sunday 10 May 2026. We will be voting on Church Wardens, PCC and Deanery synod members. The Electoral role will be on display at the back of the church and will be encouraging congregation members to complete the electoral role forms. Deadline dates for reports, notifications and Electoral roles completion will be provided.

Congratulations are due to ... Kathie Moulton who turns 80 on 11 April. David & Germaine Crisp celebrate their Thirtieth Wedding Anniversary on 25 May. Anthony Stock turns 50 on 30 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

18 April & 16 May

9.30am - 12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £5: children free

Just turn up!

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!



Newton News

Cowslip and Fritillary Day

St Peter's Church, Newton Bromswold will be holding its Cowslip and Fritillary Day on Easter Monday 6 April from 2pm to 4pm. Afternoon Teas and Plants for Sale.

Village Fete This year's Village Fete will be held on the 4th July 2026 starting at 2pm. If you are able to help, please contact Helen Lines. Any offers of help gratefully received.

Barn Dance

Barn Dance is on Saturday 11 July starting at 7pm. Tickets Adults £12.50 and Children £5. For tickets contact 07703 476689.

THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sunday 8 February

Evelyn Paige Altham



FLOWERS

April

5 April	Mrs Hollis
19 April	Mrs Turner

May

3 May	Mrs Burt
10 May	Sarah
17 May	Mrs Barnhurst
24 May	Helen Lines
31 May	Julie Allen



Easter Sunday Communion Service at 9:30am. Everyone welcome.

Ride and Stride Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Saturday 12th September 2026 between 10am and 6pm a day in the open air ... plan your own route 350+ stunning churches and chapels to visit - many of them open and welcoming.





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Happy Easter

One Easter Sunday morning, as we reached 'The Peace' in our service, I said: "Today, instead of saying 'peace be with you' we will try something different. Turn to someone and say, 'The Lord is risen' and they will reply, 'He is risen indeed!'" Everyone nodded and smiled. So, I approached a tall man in the front row. "George, the Lord is risen!" I said with suitably uncontained enthusiasm. He replied, in a rather gruff and unimpressed voice, "I know."

Perhaps on Easter Day, I should have stuck with the usual response: "Peace be with you." Why? Because that is the way Jesus greeted his disciples after his resurrection. "Peace be with you." A friend of mine was once leading Collective Worship in his local primary school and asked the children what Jesus said to his disciples on that first Easter morning. A forest of hands went up. "Yes," said my friend, pointing at an excited looking girl. "Happy Easter!" the girl replied. Well, not quite. "Peace be with you" was the answer he was looking for.



Before the world can experience a Happy Easter, there has to be a desire for that deep down, God-given peace.

We watch the news on TV and there seems to be nothing we can do. Not true. We can start where we are – at work, at home or in the community. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God."

Happy Easter!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Ormston". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

The Venerable Richard Ormston
Archdeacon of Northampton

Diocese of Peterborough - Magazine Resource - April 2026

Produced by the Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 1YB
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www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Mission Matters

“ Four years on.....”

Even though other distressing world news is grabbing the headlines these days, the war in Ukraine goes on. Four years have passed since Russia's full-scale invasion and its people continue to suffer terribly.

Four years have also passed since Church Mission Society member Alison Giblett chose to stay in Ukraine to offer practical, spiritual and emotional support to those whose lives were being torn apart by the conflict. She and the church in Kyiv to which she belongs are still there today, faithfully serving the Lord as he directs them.

Despite the bleakness of life in Ukraine there have been encouragements. Alison tells of a soldier who was suffering “phantom” pain after losing a leg. After receiving counselling and prayer ministry the man was able to testify that the pain was gone. Alison writes, “It is wonderful to see how God's Word is just as powerful today to set people free, whatever the circumstances.”

Please pray

- for Alison's safety and wellbeing as she and so many others live in a harsh environment, very often with power cuts, even in the coldest weather.
- for veteran soldiers as they adjust to civilian life. Many turn to alcohol or drugs to try to cope with practical and emotional difficulties.
- for families separated due to the war.
- for true and lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine
- for the Holy Spirit to draw people to faith in Jesus through the witness of believers.

Sue Eagles



Other News and Events

All are welcome to come to see and hear **Bishop Debbie** talking on **'What will the Church of England be like in five to ten years?'** in St John's Church Hall near **St John's Church, Corby NN17 1XF at 7.30pm on**



Wednesday 15 April. The talk will be followed by an opportunity for questions and prayer. Complimentary cheese, wine and fruit juice will be served before the meeting, from 7pm. Parking will be available nearby. Organised by Peterborough Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship, but open to all.

Men's breakfast on Saturday 18 April 2026 at 9.00am At Park Road Baptist Hall, Rushden. Guest speaker is Steve Martin. Tickets are £6 and includes a full English Breakfast. For further information contact Mark: 07734 936076.

Rushden life Mission 2026: All the events are advertised online <https://www.rushden.life/>

Jun 27 Doug Horley's Bubble Party 3-4.30pm at Park Road Baptist Church.

Jun 27 John Archer Magician 7.30-9.30pm at Highfield Road Baptist Church.

Jun 28 Rushden All Star Band Concert 6.30-8pm at Park Road Baptist.

Jun 30 How Can We Make Sense Of Suffering? - With Andy Bannister 7.30-9pm at Rushden Full Gospel Church.

Jul 1 'Have You Ever Wondered? The Clues to the Spiritual Meaning of Life Hidden in Plain Sight' with speaker Andy Bannister 7.30-9pm at Rushden Full Gospel Church.

Jul 2 Seniors' Tea Party 1-3pm at The Wesleyan Church.

Jul 4 Men's Breakfast With Tough Talk 9-11am at Park Road Baptist Church.

Jul 4 Eden Wellbeing Shed - Open house 10-12noon at Eden Shed.

Jul 4 Entrepreneurs Who Changed Rushden 2-4pm at Whitefriars Primary School.

Jul 4 Catherine Porter 7.30-9pm at St Mary's Church, Rushden.

Jul 5 Community BBQ 10.45-11.45am at Rushden Mission Church.

Jul 5 "I Am Mark" Theatrical Performance by Stefan Smart 7-8.30pm at Park Road Baptist Church.

Jul 7 Playfest Toddlers' Party! 11am-2pm at Hall Park Walled Garden.

Jul 8 Beauty, Brokenness, Joy & Hope: A Musical Journey Through the Gospel Story 4.30-5.30pm at St Peter's Church, Midland Road.

Jul 9 God, The Bible And Everything (In 60 Minutes) With James Cary 7.30-9pm, location to be confirmed.



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BELLRINGING

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or

Did you ring before and would 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 - Planning a trip

Planning a trip? Five tips to help keep your home and belongings safe while you are away.

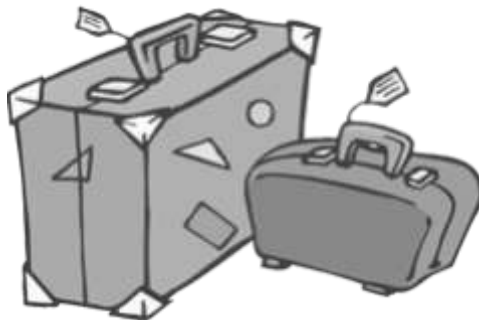
If you are going on holiday and wish to post something on social media, make sure your posts are not public and that they are only seen by your friends.

Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied.

Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or Resident Watch Scheme.

Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive.

Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries.



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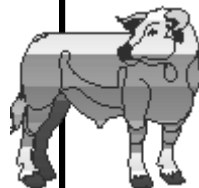
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Church Diary - April 2026

- 1 **Wednesday: 10am - Funeral of Leonard Willmott**
Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice in Church
- 2 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 3 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - NO Bellringing Practice**
- 7 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Scissor Cases, Contact for the group is Helen Allan 07814 226614.
- 8 **Wednesday: 2.15pm - Ladies Group** - For ladies of all ages – meet in the Church Hall on the second Wednesday of the month for fun and fellowship. For more information please contact Tracey on 07805 566991.
Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice in Church
- 9 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 10 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 11 **Saturday: 11am-12noon - David Robinson Interment of Ashes**
- 13 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**
We start in the church hall, where the children and parents can take part in craft activities or play. We then have a short Bible story, and some fun songs. £1.50 per family. We also serve beans on toast afterwards 11.30am-12.30pm.
- 15 **Wednesday: 12.30pm - Visiting Bellringers**
Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice in Church
- 16 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 17 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 18 **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 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in the Hall
Monday: 7pm-9pm - PCC Meeting
- 22 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 23 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 24 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 25 **Saturday: To be confirmed - Jose Smith Interment of Ashes**
- 27 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in the Hall
- 29 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 30 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall

Church Diary - May 2026

- 1 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 4 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - NO Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** - Bank Holiday
- 5 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon - Crafts & Coffee/Tea** in the Church Hall - Bookfolding Hedgehogs, Contact for the group is Helen Allan 07814 226614
- 6 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 7 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 8 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 10 **Sunday: 10.30am - APCM** in Church
- 11 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club** in the Hall
We start in the church hall, where the children and parents can take part in craft activities or play. We then have a short Bible story, and some fun songs. £1.50 per family. We also serve beans on toast afterwards 11.30am-12.30p
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- 14 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 15 **Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice**
- 16 **Saturday: 9.30am-12noon - Who Let The Dads Out?** - for male carers and their younger children 0-6yrs Adults £5: children free.
- 18 **Monday: 10am-12.30pm - Bumps and Babes and Beans Club**
- 20 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 21 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 22 **Friday: 7.30pm-9pm - Bellringers Practice**
- 27 **Wednesday: 7-8pm - Choir Practice** in Church
- 28 **Thursday: 10-12noon - Tea and Coffee** in the Hall
- 29 **Friday: 3pm - Wedding of David Loveridge and Chantell Allen**
Friday: 7.30-9pm - Bellringing Practice

Services for April 2026

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 5 April - Easter Day

10.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12 April - Second Sunday after Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 19 April - Third Sunday after Easter

10.30am Family Service

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 26 April - Fourth Sunday after Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursdays - April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
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 2026

St Mary's
Rushden

St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 3 May - Fifth Sunday after Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 10 May - Sixth Sunday after Easter

10.30am APCM

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 17 May - Seventh Sunday after Easter

10.30am Family Service

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 May - Pentecost

10.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 31 May - Trinity Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church
Thursdays 10.30am on May 7, 14, 21 and 24
- Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

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