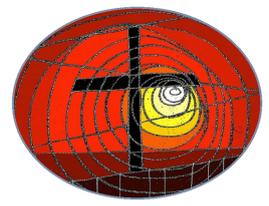




# Keeping in Touch



April-May 2017

Today is Mother's Day and it was lovely to see a good number in church on this special day as we gave thanks for mothers and all those who care and nurture others. We reflected on Mary, the mother of Jesus and thought first about that great song of praise that we call the Magnificat when she prays and praises God for the child she is carrying and how through him God will save all those who turn to him. It is good to be reminded that God is our perfect parent and whatever our human upbringing we can all know God's unconditional love as both mother and father to us all. In His love there is healing and hope for all as well as great joy. But, we also reflected on the difficult times in Mary's life, in particular how she had to undergo the agony of watching her child die and how, even on the cross, Jesus reached out to place her in the care of his disciple John. We remembered in our prayers all those who have to watch their children suffer, particularly those who have to see their children go hungry as famine sweeps through East Africa in the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945. Let us all pray and do all that we can to help end their suffering. You will see details of our special service and breakfast on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 when we will be learning about the work of Christian Aid who are working tirelessly with other agencies in that region to bring food and medicine to those in dire need. I do encourage you to come along and give to their work.



In our service today, we remembered the victims of the Westminster attack in this last week and all who were caught up in those tragic events. People often ask me where God is when tragedy strikes and, while there are no easy answers, I do believe that the message of the cross that lies at the heart of our faith has so much to say in these situations. It was in love that God reached out to our broken world to bring hope peace through his Son, and the suffering of Jesus means that all those who suffer and are heartbroken can know that God has been there Himself. He understands the very depths of human tragedy and He will always be there for us in our darkest hours. But what the resurrection also promises is that out of what seems like death and defeat can come new life, new hope and that love can conquer death itself. As we walk with Jesus through the days leading up to the cross and to the final events of Holy Week I do hope that you will find new meaning and hope in the love of God for our world and for each one of us as his children

## **Holy Week and Easter Services -**

### **9th April - Palm Sunday**

9.30am Parish Communion with palm procession and dramatic reading of the Passion.

### **13th April - Maundy Thursday**

8.00pm Service at St Etheldreda's

### **14th April - Good Friday**

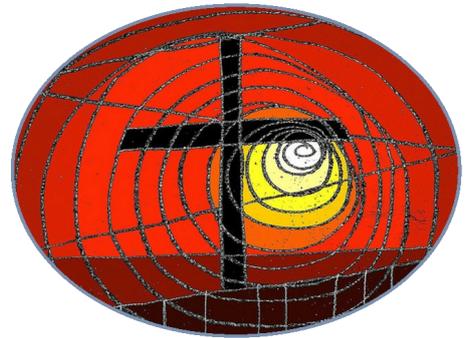
2.00pm At the Foot of the Cross

A meditative service of readings and music

### **16th April - Easter Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer

9.30am Family Communion followed by an Easter Egg Hunt



The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on **Sunday 30th April at 11.00am** in St Michael's Room. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports on the church's work over the past year and the maintenance of church fabric, to receive the audited accounts, and elect Electoral Roll members to serve as the parish representatives. The APCM is always interesting and offers an opportunity for anyone on the Electoral Roll to voice opinions on the way the church has been or is being managed. Do come and support your church, your parish and your representatives.

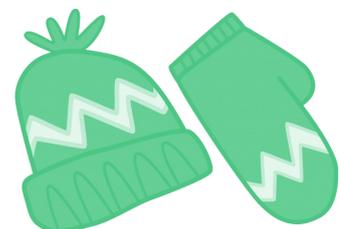


## **Hats and Mittens**

The knitting of hats and mittens for Syrian Refugees will take place on Fridays 28th April and 19th May in St Michael's Room from 10.00am to 12.00noon. We will also be sewing together triangles into blankets.

Patterns and wool will be available.

Anyone wanting to know more please contact Gill Peplow 07503176871



## Repairing the fabric of St Mary's

Over the next few months work is being carried out on the south wall and church porch. Repairs carried out decades ago involved cementing the flints externally when lime mortar should have been used. This has contributed to a damp problem inside the church. Repairs will take many weeks but the church will remain open during this time. The cost will be in the region of £13,000. We are a parish in financial deficit and would appreciate any contributions to help in the upkeep of our beautiful and much treasured church. These can be passed on to the Vicar or Churchwardens or you can donate via the link on the church website..

## Art Workshop

The next workshops will be held on Mondays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd May – 2.00-4.00pm or 7.00-9.30pm. in St Michael's Room. If you are interested please contact Robin Elgar 01707 261810



**Sunday 7th May** we will be focussing our attention on the work of Christian Aid.

At the **All-Age Service at 10.30am** we will be joined by the local Christian Aid Team and the Service will be followed by the **Big Brekkie** in St Michael's Room along with activities for the children.

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

Please come and join us to learn more about Christian Aid and support them as they seek to help disadvantaged people across the world

**Christian Aid Week 2017 is 14—20 May.** There will be envelopes in church for your donations and please take some to give to families, friends and neighbours. Or you can donate online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

*If you would like future copies of this Newsletter posted to you then please send your name and address to the  
St Mary's Parish Office, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, AL9 7TN*

### **Sunday Services at St Mary's**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

1st Sunday of the Month 10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong

3rd Sunday of the Month 11.30am Baptisms

### **Parish Registers for February and March 2017**

#### **Baptisms**

19 March Jemima Christy Louise Waddingham

#### **Funerals**

1 February Funeral of Katherine North

28 February Funeral of Kenneth Honour

3 March Funeral of Joan Elizabeth Frame-Morgan

24 March Funeral of Lilian Patricia Beaumont

### **Contact us**

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