



Keeping in Touch

Aug - Sept 2019



As we look forward to Rev'd Ruth Barr joining us in September Martin Ferdinando reflects on his time as a Churchwarden.....

I was originally asked to be one of the Churchwardens at St Mary's many years ago by Rev Sally Davenport when she was our Vicar. My working life and other commitments meant that I was unable to take it on. The same request was then made by Rev Julia Boothby some years later and whilst not a lot had changed in my life, persistence must have paid off. I accepted the challenge! Although still working full time and a number of other commitments elsewhere, I took on the role when one of the then Churchwardens Colette Arbuthnot moved away from the Parish some 5 years ago.



Julia assured me that the role would not be too taxing and with Peter Hoile still in post, it would be 'fine'. A couple of years later however, Peter, having completed a total of 13 years as a Churchwarden, (over a couple of terms) was persuaded that he'd more than 'done his bit' and could finally handover to a successor. Gill Peplow, who had been deputy churchwarden for a year, agreed to step into the role. All was fine until, in 2018, Julia announced she was moving on, which meant St Mary's would go into interregnum or vacancy.

Churchwardens are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish working alongside the Vicar. Without a Vicar the task is a totally different ball game! Without a Vicar, all aspects of the day-to-day operation of St Mary's falls on the shoulders of the Wardens. The work, which of course is entirely voluntary is not just the maintenance of the church building but helping the smooth running of all aspects of the church. It has been a mammoth task, but somehow, we have achieved it!

Gill and I are indebted to all the visiting clergy who have taken services and not forgetting, whilst we are without an organist, we have also had to ensure someone is with us Sunday by Sunday and at weddings and funerals to play for us too. Particular thanks to Brenda Harris who, as Choir Leader, has selected appropriate music week by week. It is also extraordinary that there are very few members of our congregation that don't do something. Without that level of support it would have been impossible to maintain 'business as usual' and maintained all regular services and many, weddings, funerals, interments, baptisms and special services like Remembrance, the Civic Service and Festivals.

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It was therefore to our great relief that Rev Ruth Barr felt called to join us. As Churchwardens it is something that both Gill and I are immensely proud of; that come September, we are able to welcome Ruth into our midst, not to rescue a failing congregation that is in desperate need, but one where she can 'hit the ground running' and take us forward. St Mary's is ready for the next stage and with all your help we can achieve our mission. It won't be a time for you, Gill or I to put our feet up, 'mission accomplished'. It's the start of something new. Thank you one and all but now the real work starts. Welcome Ruth, come with us!

Martin Ferdinando



Farewell and Good Luck!

On Wednesday 24th July pupils, staff and parents came to St Mary's Church for the annual School Leavers Service when we say 'Farewell and Good Luck' to the pupils of Year 6 as they prepare to move on to their new schools in September. Pupils from all classes contributed to the service by telling us what they were most proud of achieving this year and Year 6 told us of their aspirations for the future. The teachers then stepped forward to say prayers for the pupils

asking for God's protection as they make the next steps in their journey. Each Year 6 pupil was given a bible, a present from the church community. The service was led by Mrs Melidoro, the Headteacher, and John Barnard who is well known to the children as he has been going in every Tuesday to take the school assembly.

Harvest Supper - Saturday 5th October

This year our Harvest Supper will be held on

Saturday 5th October 7.00pm

in St Michael's Room

Tickets will be on sale in September

Price £10

Please contact

Brenda Harris 01707 655355

Jill Pratt prattmsm@hotmail.com





Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

**Saturday 14th September
2019
9am to 5pm**

Last year the *Bike 'n Hike* raised almost £100,000 for the upkeep of ancient churches & chapels in the two counties and St Mary's can once again benefit from this fund-raising event.

Of every £1 that we raise by sponsorship, 50p is returned to our church. 50p plus any gift aid goes to the Trust which is distributed, in the form of grants to local communities struggling to raise funds for vital repairs to their church/chapel. Currently there are several ongoing essential maintenance projects at our church which will involve substantial costs. These are expected to continue in the next few years. Our continued support of Bike'n Hike will underpin any application for a grant.

Last year St Mary's raised over £500. You can now use your car to get to the areas chosen (see lists in the pack) and see some lovely churches usually within a short walk. to a location with several churches within reasonable walking distance. So please put the date in your diary now! - **14th September 2019.**

For several past years I have received generous sponsored support from my friends in St Mary's. This year I am unable to take part on the day due to a family wedding, so I am appealing for some active participation this time!

Please contact Martin Wiggs for further information mwiggs@talktalk.net
Or visit <http://www.b-n-h.co.uk/>

It's Back!! - by popular demand St Mary's Church will be holding a

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

It will take place between **6th-8th December 2019**

The theme this year will be **★★STARS★★**

In September we will be inviting all local schools, organisations, shops and businesses to take part and enter a tree—as before visitors will vote for their favourite trees.

To register your interest contact Sheila Hoile
sheila.hoile@btinternet.com



Also delighted to announce that the **BUCK BRASSTRIO** who wowed us all at the last festival will be returning to play at the **Preview Evening** on Friday 6th December. So put the date in your diary. More details in due course.

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 followed by a short
communion service
6.30pm Choral Evensong
3rd Sunday of the Month 11.30am Baptisms

Parish Registers for June and July 2019

Baptisms

16 June Zachary Price and William Hudson

Weddings

16 June Renewal of Wedding Vows Paul and Sylvia Biddulph
27 July Wedding of Michelle Smith and Oliver Wakelam

Funerals

7 June Funeral of Ines Verney
23 June Burial of Ashes of David Roberts
29 July Burial of Ashes of Sylvia Oliver

Contact us

During the interregnum please contact either the Churchwardens or the Office Administrator for service bookings or queries.

Churchwardens

Martin Ferdinando m.ferdinando@virgin.net 01707 260687

Gill Peplow gill.peplow@outlook.com 01707 272265 or 07503 176871

Office Administrator

Lisa Large
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Parish Office open Tuesday & Wednesday

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

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