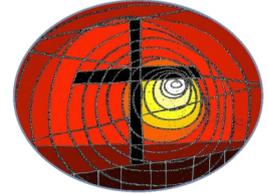




Keeping in Touch



February - March 2018

This week the snowdrops in the churchyard have come out into their glorious display of white nodding bells. They are a wonderful sight and I know that many of you delight in seeing them here in our beautiful churchyard. This year we will have our annual Snowdrop Sunday on 25th February when we will be again welcoming the Chiltern West Gallery Quire. I know they are a firm favourite with many and it will be lovely to hear their music and verse against the backdrop of the snowdrops. Tea and cakes will be on offer and we do invite you to come along and enjoy a welcome reminder that Spring is on the way!



Another sign that Spring is on the way is the marked increase in the hours of daylight, something that many of us look forward to! It is from that "lengthening" that we derive the word "Lent", that period of forty days of reflection, confession and preparation as we look towards the events of Easter. We mark the beginning of this most important Christian season with our traditional Ash Wednesday service on the 14th February. This year we will again be gathering with our friends at St. Etheldreda's at 7.30pm and during the service there will be the opportunity to be marked with a sign of the cross in ash. The ash is made from the burning of the palm crosses from last years Palm Sunday and is a reminder of our mortality and our need to repent and turn away from all that is wrong in our lives and in our world. It is a place where we can open up our lives anew to God's forgiveness and healing.

During Lent we also have our weekly Monday soup and bread lunches. All proceeds from the lunches go to Christian Aid and are a lovely occasion for people to get together and enjoy friendship and fellowship. All details of these and other events can be found on our website, calendar and Facebook page.

Many of you will already be aware that after Easter I am moving on to a new challenge! I am taking up a post as priest in three churches in the highlands of Scotland in Dingwall, Strathpeffer and Invergordon. For those unsure where these places are, they are located not far from Inverness and are quite a long way north from here! These churches, like St. Mary's, are Anglican, known in Scotland as the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and form part of the diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. The Scottish Episcopal church has a very strong sense of its history and location and I look forward to growing and serving within it. David is finally retiring from his post at Aldenham after some thirty-two years and we both have a strong sense of God calling us to this ministry together. Leaving St. Mary's after seven years will be hard, but it feels that this the right time for new and fresh leadership here and as part of the Bishop's Hatfield team. St. Mary's and all its people will always have a special place in my heart and prayers and the love and kindness that we have experienced here will be treasured always. My last Sunday here will be April 8th. In the meantime, I will be working as usual and please do contact me if I can be of any service to you.

Julia

Coming up.....

Teddy Bears' Christingle Reunion.—4th February



All Age Service at 10.30am on 4th February

will be a Christingle Service when we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World. To make it even more special we are asking children to bring along the teddies that they adopted at the Teddy Bear Hunt and Service in July to come and join in the service



Lenten Lunches will start on Monday 19th February and then every Monday in Lent until 26th March in St Michael's Room 12.30pm—2.00pm. It is a simple lunch of soup and bread for which you will be invited to donate what you would normally expect to spend on lunch. All proceeds to Christian Aid.



Snowdrop Sunday

3.00pm Sunday 25th February

An invitation to come and join us to hear the Chiltern West Gallery Quire followed by tea and cakes and a chance to walk among the snowdrops in our lovely tranquil churchyard

Holy Week and Easter Services -

25th March - Palm Sunday

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

29th March - Maundy Thursday

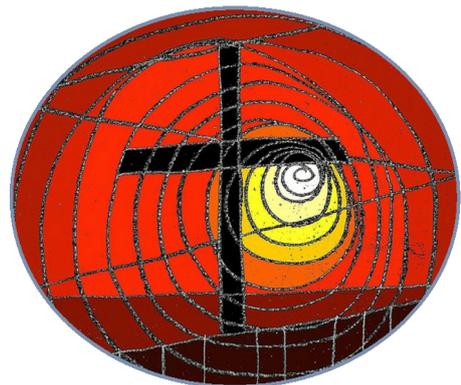
8.00pm Eucharist and Foot Washing Service at St Etheldreda's

30th March - Good Friday

2.00pm At the Foot of the Cross
A meditative service of readings and music

1st April - Easter Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt
6.30pm Easter Evensong



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 December 2017 and January 2018

Baptisms

21st January Henry Alexander Parsons

Funerals

15th December Funeral of David Thomas
18th January Thanksgiving Service for Richard Cross

Burial of Ashes

28th January Burial of Ashes of Eric Marlborough

Contact us

Vicar

Rev Julia Boothby
Julia.boothby@btinternet.com
01727 822887

Office Administrator

Lisa Large
northmymmschurch@btinternet.com
01727 825578
Parish Office open Tuesday & Wednesday

Churchwardens

Martin Ferdinando
m.ferdinando
01707 260687

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

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

 Find us on
Facebook @stmarysnorthmymms