



Keeping in Touch

February-March 2020



Rev'd Ruth writes

Here we are at the start of a new year, in fact, a new decade. That time of year when many people will have spent time considering what their New Year's resolutions would be. How they needed to lose weight, get in better shape, stop eating so much meat, reduce their work-load, spend more time with family, or change some other habit. Historically, local gyms have the highest number of new clients in the first weeks of a new year and fill their work-out spaces with hi-tech equipment, then return that same equipment into storage by early February, because the hard work involved in changing habits is less attractive and those new clients have stopped coming.



So, what did you decide to do this year? Have your own declarations and promises been shelved? Research suggests that less than a quarter of us who make New Year's resolutions will keep them.

For those of us who have a faith in God, we know that He gives us opportunities day after day to start again. Like getting a clean fresh book at the start of a school term, when the user sits with a new pen and writes their name neatly on the front cover. Regardless of what happens for the rest of the day, God promises to be there for us.

Here are some Old Testament verses that speak to this assurance:

Proverbs 3:5-6 – 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.'

I personally take great comfort in the idea that my heavenly Father watches over me, wanting me to come to him, even when I mess things up.

Psalms 103:10-14 – 'He has not punished us as we deserve for all our sins, for his mercy toward those who fear and honour Him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west. He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him.'

I leave you with a challenge to consider taking some time each day to pray, which has many personal benefits. Prayer does not have to be a time when we are silent, sitting with our hands together and our head bowed. Some prayers are said simply while

breathing in and out, often in time with walking steps, and can be done alone or with others. It can be formal or spontaneous. As we pray we encounter mystery and silence. When we run out of words, the Holy Spirit prays for us.

We breathe **in** the grace, blessings, peace, holiness of God and breathe **out** our adoration, praise, thanksgiving, confession and prayers for ourselves or others. Prayer re-orientates us in right relationships with God, with those we love, and the world God cares for. It is a transformative habit and way of being.

Christmas at St Mary's



Christmas Tree Festival

Over 300 people came to the Christmas Tree Festival

Over 400 people attended services over Christmas



School Christmas Service



Crib Service

Vote for favourite carols – top 3
In the bleak midwinter
Silent Night
O Come All Ye Faithful



Christmas Morning



Garland of Stars

Snowdrop Sunday

23rd February

3pm

We would love you to join us at 3.00pm in church to enjoy music by the EveryVoice Choir followed by tea and cakes and a chance to enjoy the snowdrops in our lovely tranquil churchyard
A fund raising event for the Isabel Hospice and St Mary's Church





Lenten Lunches will start on **Monday 2nd March** and then every Monday in Lent until 6th April in St Michael's Room. It is a simple lunch of soup and bread served at 12.30pm for which you will be invited to donate what you would normally expect to spend on lunch. All proceeds to Christian Aid. The lunch will be followed by a short service of reflection using the Church of England's #LiveLent Campaign (see below)



#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. We will explore the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance

God has created. The #LiveLent challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature. At St Mary's we will be coming together to share in the #LiveLent challenge each Monday in Lent from 2nd March to 6th April

- Following the Lenten Lunches
- At 7.00pm

Each service will last about ½hr. Ruth has ordered copies of the #LiveLent booklet. If you would like a copy please speak to Ruth.



In response to popular demand we are holding another sing-along

In St Michael's Room at the church on **Sunday 29th March at 3.00pm**

followed by tea and cakes

Come and join in !

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 Communion
1st Sunday of the Month 10.30am All-Age Service
6.30pm Evensong
3rd Sunday of the Month 11.30am Baptisms

Parish Registers for December 2019 & January 2020

Weddings

28 December Lauren Welch and Kieran Davey

Funerals and Burial of Ashes

11 December Thanksgiving Service for Ian McClaren
2 January Funeral of Dawn Gill (nee Ingram)
19 January Burial of Ashes of Janet Peppard
27 January Funeral of Sheila Barnard

Contact us

Vicar

Rev Ruth Barr
ruthbarr77@gmail.com
01727 822887

Churchwardens

Martin Ferdinando
m.ferdinando@virgin.net
01707 260687

Office Administrator

Lisa Large
northmymmschurch@btinternet.com
01727 825578

Gill Peplow

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

Parish Office open Tuesday & Wednesday

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

 Find us on
Facebook @stmarysnorthmymms