



# Keeping in Touch



February - March 2024

St Mary's North Mymms is an outward looking church, caring for all age groups and helping the local community to experience God's love and grow in faith

## Rev Ruth writes ...

We recently kicked things with off the start of the new year, 2024. There is often that sense of looking back on what has passed but also looking forward and wondering what the new year might bring. We recognise that for some, 2024 is already starting off with some major changes, through loss of a loved one or through health issues. Weather can also affect our moods and when the cost of Christmas comes through, many people have regrets at shopping sprees which now need to be paid for. Late Winter is still upon us and can perhaps seem a bit stormy, but may I suggest bundling up and going for a walk in the garden or the woods. As Spring slowly approaches we can glimpse changes in nature happening around us. The buds on the trees are starting to peek through, there is a crisp chill in the air but the snowdrops and even crocus heads are peeking through the muddy ground. The sunshine is trying its best to get our attention. and the days are already starting to get longer; signs of the better months to come.



Psalm 96, v11-12 says this:

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!  
Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!  
Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!  
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy

You might just not be in a particularly jubilant or singing frame of mind though.



Life might for you seem more dark and so I hope this image will help you instead: A colleague of mine has a friend, who happens to love lighthouses. They recently explained, that within the light that a lighthouse offers, there is also a moment of darkness. A second where the light rotates leaving shadow and darkness

Cont'd.....

momentarily before coming back and bringing light again. There are times when we might feel like we are in that moment, that shadow of darkness when the lighthouse's beam is directed away from us, but we know and can hold on to the certainty that the Bearer of the Light is ever with us in our stormy moments and in our sheltered gentle moments.

As you navigate changing seasons and challenges ahead, may you know that you are held fast by the Rock of our Salvation.

“You are an island in the sea, O God,  
you are a hill on the shore,  
you are a star in the darkness,  
you are a staff to the weak.  
O, my soul's healer,  
when I am lost and tired and stumbling  
you shield and support me.  
God, help me to give light, love and support to others.”

Celtic prayer from *'This is the day: readings and meditations'*, Neil Paynter: Wild Goose Publications.

If you would like to join us for the period of Lent, for the 5 weeks before Easter, for a light Lent lunch followed by a reflection based around the hymn “How Great thou art” then please make contact with the church office to book a space. Maybe this year will help you come closer to God who loves to bring his light into the darkest of situations.



## Join us for Lunch & Reflection

Lunches will start on Monday 19th February and then every Monday in Lent until 25th March in St Michael's Room at 12.30pm. It is a simple lunch of soup and

bread and a Lenten Reflection led by Revs Ruth and Penny based on the hymn “How Great Thou Art”. You will be invited to donate what you would normally expect to spend on lunch.

All proceeds to Herts Young Homeless .



Then Sings my Soul

A Bible Study  
by John Bach



# Christmas at St Mary's

Here is a small sample of all that went on at St Mary's Church over the Christmas period. It was lovely to see so many people involved in worship and events.



Walk to Bethlehem—The Stable Scene



Father Christmas visits  
Coffee Pots & Tiny Tots



Carols by Candlelight



The Memory Tree—full of  
messages of love and hope



Crib Service



Christmas Tree Festival  
Winning Tree



Church beautifully decorated thanks to Diana  
and her team



Christingle Service



Wise men start their journey to Bethlehem

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this a inspirational season and offering the legendary St Mary's welcome to all those visiting the church.

## Maurice Dawson RIP



We were sad to learn that Maurice Dawson passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. He died peacefully at home aged 96 with his wife Kay and his children Gill and Howard at his side. Maurice and Kay were married for 68 years and have been active members of St Mary's since moving to Brookmans Park. Maurice and Kay built the house in Brookmans Park and moved there in 1966 with their three young children after Maurice purchased a construction company in North London which he ran until he retired in 1990.

Maurice was well known locally for his love of people and his happy demeanour. Often seen chatting with neighbours at the local shops, he will be greatly missed. He participated in many local groups and activities. Until 2022 he was a keen swimmer and was often seen driving his little red sports car around the villages.

Maurice's death came a week before the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of their youngest daughter Caroline, aged 41, who was also known locally as a bit of a character. Our thoughts are with Kay and her family at this sad time.

## Snowdrop Celebration



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

come and enjoy the snowdrops in our tranquil churchyard  
£3.00 donation towards upkeep of churchyard to include tea/coffee and  
a piece of cake

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 4.00pm**

*Music to Welcome Spring - A concert by Bella Cora*

with tea and cakes in the interval  
**Tickets £12 (£5 for 16 and under)**  
**Available from Ticketsource**  
**(click on QR code)**  
**at the church or on the door**



# Coffee morning



**Tuesday 5th March  
10am–12 noon**

Bric a Brac, Jams, Cakes, &  
Secondhand Books  
Entry £3 on the door to include  
coffee/tea and cake

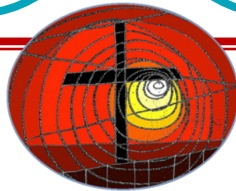
**Raising funds for the  
church**

# Community Singing



**Sunday 17th March  
3.00pm**

All are welcome, everyone can sing.  
We will be singing standard classics  
including old-time music hall songs,  
songs from various shows and campfire  
favourites.  
Plus tea and cake and of course, a really  
good catch-up chat



## Services for Holy Week and Easter

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
10.00am Palm Sunday Service  
2.00pm Wild Worship

**Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
6.30pm Service in church

**Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
12.00pm-3.00pm Vigil at the Cross  
Led by Bishop Graham

**Easter Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March**  
6.30pm pm Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
9.30am Communion Service in church  
followed by Easter cake and refreshments

## Dates for your diary

**Knitting Group** - Thursdays 1st & 22nd February and 7th & 21st March  
10.00am - 12noon (note change of date to 22nd Feb)

**Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots** - Every Wednesday in term time 10.00am—11.30am

**Poetry Group** - Fridays 23rd February and 22nd March 2.30pm - 4.00pm

**Sunday Club** - Sundays 11th & 18th February and 10th & 17th March  
during Parish Communion

**Wild Worship** - Sundays 25th February and 24th March 2.00pm

**Churchyard Tidy Up Party** - Saturdays 24th February and 23rd March  
2.00pm - 4.00pm

### Funerals

11th December	'Bob' Cecil Tanner
11th December	Stanley Cooper
18th December	Iain Sinclair
19th December	'Pam' Eileen Tooley
11th January	Robin Chapman
24th January	Maurice Dawson

### Contact us

#### **Vicar**

Rev Ruth Barr  
vicar@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk  
01727 822887  
07447 458526

#### **Associate Priest**

Rev Penny Thomson  
penny.thomson@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk  
07846 429737

#### **Office Administrator**

Lisa Large  
northmymmschurch@btinternet.com

#### **Churchwardens**

Rupert Lee  
rupert.lee@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Marion Freeman

marion.freeman@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

#### **Safeguarding Officer**

Lisa Large 01727 825578  
safeguard@stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

[www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk](http://www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk)



@northmymmsstmarys