

# Life News @ St Mary's



**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
SUNDAY 21ST APRIL AT 12 NOON IN CHURCH**



**Verse for 2023/2024     2 Corinthians 13:11**

“Finally, beloved friends, be cheerful! Repair whatever is broken among you, as your hearts are being knit together in perfect unity. Live continually in peace, and God, the source of love and peace, will mingle with you.”

## A Word from the Vicar

What does good news look like to you? Living in today's world, one could be forgiven for thinking good news is rarely part of everyday life, after all, most news headlines focus on sufferings, tragedies, the lives of celebrities, scandals and the like.

Yet the truth is that our lives are surrounded by good news and the greatest good news in the world is the good news of Easter. Prior to the events leading up to Jesus' death, his friends were 'living the dream' as they saw Jesus transform so many lives for the better. Yet things appeared to go horribly wrong when Jesus was arrested, tried in a kangaroo court, sentenced to death and crucified on a cross. All their hopes and dreams were shattered, until the third day when Jesus rose from the dead.

Although the religious authorities tried their best to suppress the news of Jesus' resurrection, including circulating false reports and bribing those guarding the tomb, this good news prevailed and has carried on being shared with every generation because not only is it good news for us today, but it is good news for all eternity. Jesus offers to everyone a sure and certain hope – the question is do we believe this, and will we accept it?

With blessings this Eastertide

Tim



## Recycling Workshop - Wednesday 24th - 3pm

Wednesday Welcome and Creation Care have joined forces for a day. On April 24<sup>th</sup> we welcome the Cambridgeshire Council Waste



Education Officer, who will tell us about recycling, show us a film of how our blue bin contents are sorted, and tell us how we can help.

Come and bring your awkward questions about what goes in which bin!

If you don't usually attend Wednesday Welcome, please let Mike Gilham or Anthony Harris know.

# Hebion



Friday, 26th April, 2024 at 7:30pm  
Perry Baptist Church, East Perry,  
Cambs, PE28 0BT

**Gospel Music with a Jewish flavour,  
with ministry in word and song.**

**Featuring:**  
Simon Elman  
Chrissy Rodgers  
Helen Shapiro

**ADMISSION FREE,  
BY TICKET ONLY  
A freewill offering  
will be taken. For tickets  
Contact: 01480 700810**

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Eaton Socon May Day Fair  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

**12noon -4pm**

**Lots of stalls, displays and activities**

**Refreshments in church**

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Please contact us if you need help or

support: 07305 210416

[pastoralcare@eatonsocon.org](mailto:pastoralcare@eatonsocon.org)



## **Life @ St Mary's – April 2024**

Here's some news of various things happening in the life of St Mary's.

### **3.16 Service!**

During 2024, one of the key areas the PCC is focusing on is to develop and build the new 3.16 service held on the 1st Sunday of the month – do come along and try it out!

### **Lay Leaders of Worship**

You may have noticed various lay people helping to lead our services over recent weeks? These people have been considered prayerfully by the PCC, the Eldership and myself to help lead our services.

They are:

David Ferris; Jane Gogarty; Barbara Jarvis; Sarah Miller & Julie Robb.

Each of them has either completed or are in the process of completing the Diocesan Lay Leaders of Worship course that grants permission to lay people to lead services in the local church.

Do encourage them as they all grow into this exciting ministry – a ministry that will benefit St Mary's hugely not just when I'm on Study Leave but also on into the future!

### **Buildings & Fabric Developments**

If you visit the Church Hall, you will notice the previous red chairs have been replaced with some red chairs that came via the Cambridge University recycling site for the cost of hiring a van! We are very grateful to the recycling site for reaching out to us with the offer. Do try them out next time you're in the Church Hall.

The long-awaited refurbishment of the Vicar's Vestry into a usable space has recently been completed. To be used especially by the Sunday School, this project was largely funded by a restricted gift given several years ago and supplemented by some designated funds.

## **APCM**

On Sunday 21st April at 12noon, we have our Annual Meeting. This year there are vacancies on PCC including: PCC Secretary, Treasurer, 1 Deanery Synod and up to 5 PCC places. Do chat to any of the existing PCC to explore how your skills and gifts could help St Mary's at this time.

In addition, we need some Assistant Churchwardens who oversee the various services at St Mary's. If you want to find out more, what about talking to an Assistant Churchwarden or a member of the PCC?

## **Tim's Study Leave**

This year, I will be away from May-August on Study Leave, then on Annual Leave (back Sept). Some of this time (June) will be spent in New Zealand with my parents. Please pray for Julie and Sarah as they will not be accompanying me on this trip.

During this time, both the PCC and Eldership will be able to respond to any matters that arise. Please pray for them all during this time. Look out for a new display of 'who's who' in the Church Porch coming late April.

Thanks too in anticipation, to the Retired Ministers, our Reader and the Lay Leaders of Worship with Diocesan permission to lead our services. All these people will help ensure our services continue as much as normal – there may be the odd service change, but these will be few!

## **Most of all...**

Most of all, as you continue to journey in Christ with each other over these next few months whilst I'm away, I will be praying these verses over you all:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,  
gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one  
another...as the Lord forgave you.

And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity.

With every blessing - Tim

# FOODBANK UPDATE

The Foodbank are looking for a new Project Manager,

After a number of years Adrienne Dunn is to step down as Project Manager at the Foodbank and so a replacement is needed.

The basic requirements of the role are:

**Responsible to:-** Trustees of St Neots Foodbank

**Responsible for:-** Central management and coordination of the Foodbank project

**Hours:-** Part-time to usually cover Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings during warehouse opening times, 9.30- 12.00 and at other times as necessary.

**Overall responsibility of the job:-** To oversee the operation of St Neots Foodbank, with concern for its operational efficiency and standards in accordance with the Trussell Trust franchise model. Guide the development of the foodbank project, including its material resources, financial assets, reputation, partnerships and volunteer body.

For the last eight years the role has been fulfilled solely by Adrienne but it is possible that the responsibilities could be split with the Project Manager acting to coordinate.

The role is currently voluntary, but the trustees would consider remuneration.

If you are interested or just want to know more, please contact David Gill at church on a Sunday or 07591 468570 or [the.biield@outlook.com](mailto:the.biield@outlook.com)



## World Mission Team

We recently held a meeting to review our support to our Mission Partners. Although finances are under pressure we are thankful that we can continue to bless them financially.



We are also in the process of arranging visits from Mano (Colombo Theological Seminary, Sri Lanka)

and Teresha (Triumph Hearts, Uganda).

This will give us, and you, a chance to find out more about their work and ask any questions that you may have.



ACTIOS continue to work in our local schools and the School's Worker Jennifer has given the following points for Prayer and Praise:

- Praise God for so many opportunities to talk about Lent and Easter this term and early next term
- Thanks to God for the strong relationships with the primary schools. The opportunities to connect and discuss faith in Jesus with the children, the staff, and some of the parents
- Pray for energy and clear words when Jen delivers assemblies or collective worship
- Pray that the audiences will learn something of God, faith in Jesus, and what that relationship means

Also, our Mission notice board has recently been updated with several partners' newsletters. There is lots of news, so please do take time to read all the updates.

We, and I know our partners, are very grateful for the support you give them in whatever form that may take.

God bless. Steve Bailey

# Calendar for APRIL



## MONDAY

Café on the Green - 10am (term time only)

Creation Care Working Party - 9.30am (29th)

M (Maintenance) Team - 9.30am (15th)

Youth Café - 3.30pm (For children in Years 7-11)(term time only)

## TUESDAY

Morning Prayer - 9am

Craft Group - 10am



## WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion - 9am

Little Stars - 10am (term time only)

Wednesday Welcome - 3pm (term time only)

Bell Ringing Practice - 7.30pm

Wednesday Welcome  
on 24th is  
Recycling Workshop  
All welcome - see  
more details inside

## THURSDAY

Prayer Meeting - 9am

Thursday Lunch Club - 12noon (25th)

## FRIDAY

Food bank 10am - 12noon

Fusion 7.30pm (term time only)



## SATURDAY

20th - Repair and Alteration Shop - 10am - 1pm

## SUNDAY

7th - 3:16 Service - 3pm

14th - Wildlife Walk and tea - 3pm

21st - HIVE - 2pm

28th - Sharing Life Through Learning - 6pm

