

ST MARY THE VIRGIN & ALL SOULS PARISH CHURCH
BULWELL
THE HILL

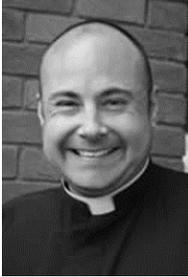
BULWELL PARISH MAGAZINE
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St Mary's Parish Church, Bulwell

YOUR VICAR WRITES

A lot happens in St Mary's church and out in the parish. Think of our church services, activities and events advertised in this magazine; none of these could be done without the help and support of others.



The Revd. Thomas McSweeney tells the story of Paul Adams. As part of his treatment for mental illness, Paul does volunteer work assisting elderly people; going on errands, escorting them to doctors' surgeries, and so. Paul found out that helping other people also helps him.

"Before I started doing this", Paul says, "I would lie in bed and be depressed all day. Volunteering gets my mind off my own burdens and makes me responsible."

Paul is an accomplished pianist and performs at various care homes. As he entertains others, he benefits too. He says that he has learned to deal with the pressure of performing in public.

Many people find that when they help others, they receive as much as they give. Because of that, their own lives become more meaningful and fulfilling.

As you read about the church services, activities and events in this magazine, you might like to think if you could help; cleaning the church perhaps, greeting folk at Tuesday Church Open, helping with the children's work, or reading a Bible lesson in a service. You might like to think about volunteering at the Wellbeing Group or the new Messy Church at Crabtree Farm School. As the author of the Book of Proverbs wrote: "Those who are generous are blessed" (Proverbs 22:9).

God bless you

Fr A

ONE LIFE MISSION 2019

A prayer for One LIFE

We pray for the One LIFE Mission with the Archbishop of York and all the northern Bishops. Father God help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all. By your Spirit help us grow in unity, grow as followers of Jesus Christ, and grow your Kingdom in Southwell & Nottingham. Amen

PS In connection with One Life Mission there will be a One Life Worship Event at St Mary's on Saturday 1 June. Everyone welcome.

'ALL MUMS SHOULD LIVE'



Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

**BULWELL CHURCHES TOGETHER at St Mary the Virgin & All Souls -----
invite you on Tuesday 14th May 10-11.30 to:**



Come join us over a lovely cooked brunch, with a selection of options, learn about Christian Aid Week and their projects, and donate some more lovely cash in return.

Will you be a partner for change? If our church raised £300, it could help provide a new delivery bed so more mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesdays 9.45 – 10.45 am Church Open and Bible study
10.45 am – 12 noon Dustbusters

Thurs 2nd May Church being used as a Polling Station 6.30 pm – 10.15pm.

Sunday 5 May 4.00 pm Bulwell Churches Together Christian Aid Service – Please come along as we host this service and support Christian Aid

Sat 11th May 11.00 am – 3.00 pm. A talk by Peta Mellor (CFPSS member) her experiences of the psychical and the spiritual, followed by an open forum in the afternoon. An excellent introduction for anybody interested in religious experience, and the ministries of healing and deliverance. Cost £5 (pay on the door). Tea/coffee provided, bring a packed lunch. Pls speak with Fr A if you would like a lift

. Tues 14th May 9.45 am Christian Aid 'Big Brekkie'

Thurs 23rd May 6.30 am – 10.15 pm. Church being used as a Polling Station

Saturday 8th June, from 11.00 am to 2.30 pm. A Family Festival for Pentecost is taking place at Bishop's Manor, Southwell, on It is aimed at families with children aged 11 and under.

Saturday 13th July - Bulwell Arts Festival - Cool Jazz 2.00 pm, refreshments tea/coffee and cake at St Mary's

Saturday 21st September - Alfreton Male Voice Choir 7.30 pm

THE TOWER

At our Ringers' Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 April, a fairly full programme of ringing, stretching to the end of the year, was agreed. The programme of ringing had an early start, the following day, the first time I had ever heard of ringing on Maundy Thursday, when we were asked by our Archbishops Justin and John, to ring a single bell for 7 minutes at 7pm, this was to show our solidarity and sympathy with the people of Paris following the disastrous fire at Notre Dame. Normal Easter ringing took place with the Angelus at 12 noon and the passing bell in the afternoon of Good Friday and full open ringing of all eight bells for the morning service on Easter Day. There have been a number of expressions of pleasure on hearing the bells on that occasion. On Tuesday 23 April, we rang in the evening to commemorate St George's Day, a tradition which now established, I feel is well worth maintaining. On Sunday 5 May at 3.30pm, we will be ringing, when all the churches in Bulwell hold a united service for Christian Aid week. As part of Bulwell Arts Festival, the Church will be open and visitors will be able to tour the tower and see ringing demonstrated. In September, we may be open again for the ride and stride and National Heritage weekend. We are planning our annual ringers' dinner for September, along with two other social events.

The next Nottingham District Meeting will be at St Helen's Trowell on Saturday 4 May 3pm – 5pm.

Robert Naylor – Tower Captain

A MESSAGE FROM REVD KAREN.....

Revd Karen Hanford was on Placement with us, at St Mary's, from the beginning of January until Easter Sunday.

Karen writes ...

Driving up the ring road on those dark, cold mornings at the beginning of January, I did wonder if I'd done the right thing, offering to come on Placement to Bulwell! But as I sat by the river on Good Friday in the glorious spring sunshine, I was able to look back on an amazing and varied time which I wouldn't have missed for anything.

I was welcomed with open arms by the Tuesday Bible Study group and enjoyed the friendship and fellowship as we were led by Anne into some really deep themes in the Christian faith, looking at forgiveness, prayer, worship and other topics. It was great to see more people joining with us over the weeks – the doors are always open for new members.

Then the Dustbusters team started: a team of willing volunteers armed with dusters, brasso, mops, etc. Sounds like hard work but we had good fun as we cleaned the Church week by week and got to know each other better.

Early on in the Placement, I was introduced to the wonderful, peaceful space of Mount St Bernard's Abbey by Father Andrew, as we enjoyed a brief time there following a funeral visit. I also look back on a day at the Sozein Retreat Centre in Derbyshire, when Father Neil shared his ministry experience with us.

I was able to help out as well as gain more experience by taking two funerals and conducting my first baptism, as well as preaching and leading at Sunday and Thursday worship. The silence before the Walsingham Mass is very special and I think must enhance everyone's experience of worship at that Service.

By contrast, it was great to be part of the March of Witness and lively Open-Air Service in the town centre on Good Friday, with keyboard hymn accompaniment by Vicki Paling and songs by our friends from The Well, with a talk, illustrated with broken eggs, by our own Father Andrew.

Another highlight was sharing in the journey of those who were confirmed at the wonderful Service at St Mary's Church in the Lace Market on Easter Eve. Keep going in the faith, all of you! It's the most important thing you can do.

Blessings,

Revd Karen

P.S. Let me know when the Quiz is next year. Our team needs to defend its title!

FAMILY FESTIVAL FOR PENTECOST

A date for your diary A Family Festival for Pentecost is taking place at Bishop's Manor, Southwell, on Saturday 8th June, from 11am to 2.30pm. It is aimed at families with children aged 11 and under. Further details on Southwell & Nottingham Diocese website at a later date.

EASTER EXPERIENCE AT ST MARY'S

In the week before they began their Easter holiday, around 450 children from eight Bulwell primary schools visited St Mary's, Bulwell, for Easter activities based around the well-known 'Jumping Fish' publication. Following a similar pattern to Time Travelling, sessions began with a welcome and introduction followed by a rotation through five Holy Week reflective activities, beginning with the 'Hopes and Dreams' of Palm Sunday, progressing to 'Resurrection' on Easter Sunday. 'Easter Experience' at St Mary's is embedded in the parish's commitment to and active promotion of the diocesan vision to grow disciples – wider, younger and deeper.

They engaged with a wide cross section of the community, people of all ages and backgrounds, conscious that their previous experience of church varied from children who have never been in their parish church before, through parent helpers and staff who are reminded of a past occasional office attended, to children from local church schools who already have an appreciation of the importance of Easter to Christians.

There are established and deepening links with local schools who are already happy for the church to share information about Messy Church, 'Whiz Kids' Sunday School, New Young Christians group and family worship. It is hoped that through 'Easter Experience' other schools, especially those visiting for the first time, will develop confidence in St Mary's appreciation of appropriate boundaries and the invitational nature of collective worship offered. As a result, the church is praying that children and their families will be drawn into the worshiping community.

Contact details can also be found on Bulwellchurch website.

ST MARY'S PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM - 7 April Jess Lawrence and Harry Blatherwick

CONFIRMATIONS – St Mary's In the Lace Market – Saturday 20 April
Michelle, Ollie, Shaun Jess, Sheena, Barbara, Simone, 'Livia, Lindsey and Lilly

FUNERALS - We give thanks for the life of

April 5 Jean Meakin (Bramcote) and remember her loved ones in their grief that they may know the peace of God.

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SENIOR SIDESPERSONS			
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