

ST MARY THE VIRGIN & ALL SOULS
PARISH CHURCH BULWELL
THE HILL
BULWELL PARISH MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2019 Vol. 148 No 10



St Mary's Parish Church, Bulwell

WE ALL SHARE



Children are invited to an introduction to Holy Communion

Saturday 12th October +
from 10.30am till 2pm

With: Stories + Songs + Role
Play + Food + Crafts + Games

Details: pick up a pink leaflet, ask Fr Andrew or a Whiz Kids' Leader

FINDING DIRECTION THROUGH PRAYER

Listening to God. Listening to others. Listening to ourselves

A very practical course for anyone who wants to deepen their prayer and faith journey. Cost £55

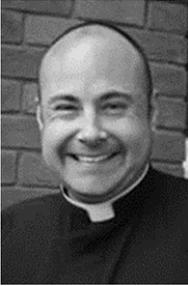
Led by Revd Canon Sylvia Griffiths, Jean Sims and Revd Hazel Robinson

SACRISTA PREBEND, SOUTHWELL

Tuesdays 10am – 12:30pm

October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November 5th, 12th 2019

YOUR VICAR WRITES



The late writer, William Arthur Ward had some thought-provoking ideas on prayer you might consider:

“Wonderful things happen to us when we live expectantly, believe confidently, and pray affirmatively. Seeking to find how I should pray, this came to mind: Thank God each day.”

“Prayer does not always bring us what we want: rather it helps us become the kind of persons we should be.”

“The value of prayer is not in what it gives us, but in what it makes us.”

“Prayer is not primarily a method of getting, but it is a splendid way of growing.”

In one translation of St Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is said to have spent a night in ‘communion with God’. ‘Communion’ is a definition of prayer from the heart, with the heart, to the heart of God. Pray today.

Jesus went out to the mountain to pray (Luke 6:12)

God bless you,

Andrew

CLOTHES BANK

Thanks to everyone who has donated clothes into the Clothes Bank on the hill. 1250 Kg of clothes have been donated, generating an income of £375 towards Church funds.

TOWER UPDATE



St Mary's church tower has been a landmark in Bulwell since 1851. The church was designed by the Derby-based architect, H.I. Stevens, and it was built at a cost of £3000.

Over the centuries, the wind, sun and rain have taken its toll on the building and the tower roof needs to be replaced - it has been letting in water for some time!

The Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council and I have been working with the present church architect, Peter Rogan, and the Diocese. The time has come to put the necessary work in hand and make sure the tower survives for another few hundred years!

Work on the tower will commence on November 18 this year, and should be finished by the end of February 2020, all being well. The tower will be encased in scaffolding for the duration of the work, and the clock and bells will be out of action.

Whilst the scaffold is up, the builders, Pearce Roofing Services Ltd, will also make any necessary repairs to the tower stonework and bell louvres.

The estimated cost of the work is around £85,000 (excluding VAT/architect's fees etc). St Mary's is fortunate in having the gift of a legacy to help toward the cost of the work. Other donations have also been gratefully received (thanks again to Colin Dutton and the Pye Hill Male Voice Choir). If you would like to make a donation

towards the cost of repairing the tower, please speak with me, the Churchwardens, Eleanor and Roy, or a member of the PCC.

We will keep you updated as the work progresses - watch this space!

Every blessing,

Fr A

LICENSED LAY MINISTER (READER) PLACEMENT

We will soon be welcoming Darren Wilkinson amongst us on placement (dates/times etc to be arranged) Darren is in his last year training to be a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader). Darren attends St. Peter and St. Pauls church in what is now the Parish of West Hucknall. He is a churchwarden there, one the sacristans, and occasionally a chalice bearer. Darren's church background is Pentecostal, and he has been volunteering at New Wine for the last two years. Darren works full time driving articulated lorries, so will only be able to join us evenings and weekends.

ST MARY'S PROMISE PROJECT FOR PLANNED GIVING

Following recent decisions to modernise our Printing Facilities, Communications and PA system, the PCC feel that now is the right time for a complete review of the methods and information relating to Voluntary Giving within the Church: there has been no full reassessment for a number of years.

Having committed to improving our facilities, we need to ensure that we have the resources to maintain and expand our mission and

worship through the coming years. To this end, the PCC are launching the St Mary's Promise Project in October. This will not only allow a complete renewal of information, but also allows each one of us to prayerfully reconsider our commitment to God in terms of monetary offerings.

Over time the Gift Aid scheme, first introduced in 1990, has undergone a number of changes such that it has never been easier to claim Gift Aid than it is now. All claims for St. Mary's are made via the diocese office. We therefore need to ensure that all our data is current, not only for ourselves but for the diocese and for HMRC.

The Promise Project will explain how all who are able to contribute through regular giving can help to maximise the benefits afforded by the Gift Aid system, not only on gifts given by UK tax payers, but also, through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), on all cash gifts made on the collection plate, which would not otherwise be eligible for Gift Aid. Both systems top up our gifts by 25%.

Everyone on the Parish Electoral Role will receive a Promise Project pack, including a simple form to complete and an envelope in which to return it.

The PCC would wish to reassure everyone that the aim of the Promise Project is to have up to date information and to maximise the value of all voluntary giving, for the maintenance of the Church and its mission. We certainly do not intend that anyone should feel pressured to give more than they can readily afford.

RAFFLE PRIZES Each time we have a Social Event we hold a raffle; donations of raffle prizes are gratefully received for future raffles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 10am – 1pm **CELEBRATE OLDER PEOPLES' DAY** 2019 Everyone over 50yrs old or who cares for anyone over 50 is welcome. Drop in anytime. Mellish Sports Centre Kimmel Road (Off Piccadilly)

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 6.30pm **HARVEST SOCIAL** evening (Details elsewhere in the magazine) Tickets adults £5 under 14's £2.50

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 7pm West Room **OPEN MEETING** to plan Christmas Fayre everyone welcome. If you are unable to be present and are willing to help in any way, please let Eleanor Lang know beforehand.

MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 10am – 1pm **'NOW WE'RE COOKING'** starts (Details elsewhere in the magazine)

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER 11am – 2pm **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** Items for this event are now being collected. Tombola prizes, unwanted gifts, books, bottles, Christmas items, raffle prizes & toys. Also baking ingredients (to Joyce White) Please bring donations along to church. *Many thanks*

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL on Main Street with light switching on

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER ROYAL ENGINEERS BAND CONCERT Tickets £5 or pay on the door.

SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER Bulwell Churches Together **CAROLS ON MAIN STREET**

UPGRADING ST. MARY'S SOUND SYSTEM

The PCC have agreed to replace our existing PA Sound System, which is of an obsolete type, because it is beginning to fail, is incapable of further expansion, provides output of inferior quality, and is therefore no longer fit for purpose.

The sound quality, through both the Loudspeakers and Loop system, is poor; not adequately covering either the Nave or the Choir and Chancel areas. This is confirmed by a number of congregation members, including hearing aid users, who often struggle to hear prayers, readings, sermons and Whizz Kidz.

The Loop system is subject to an unacceptable degree of noise and interference. The existing microphones perform poorly, and the radio microphones are failing, with replacement parts unavailable.

The system is inflexible: there is no zoning; and audio is not available to the West Room or the Upper Hall. The existing Upper Hall speakers are "blown". Control is basic and very minimal, there are no tone controls for the microphone inputs; and feedback is a frequent problem as volumes cannot be adjusted individually.

The sound can only be controlled from the existing panel at the rear of the Nave, which has poor sightlines to the lectern and Chancel, especially when the pews are full, so microphone and CD cues are easily missed; and it is not the best position from which to judge and control the sound levels in the body of the Nave.

Modern media such as MP3 and USB audio input is not supported, so that wedding and funeral music still needs to be on CDs, even though many families would wish to provide memory sticks for this

or play music from mobile phones and other digital devices. It is currently not possible to feed audio output from a laptop to the amplifier whilst projecting onto a screen from the laptop, so the soundtrack for any AV presentation (video) is inadequate. This let us down with our recent school Leavers' event.

REPLACEMENT SYSTEM

The replacement system will resolve all these problems. Modern digital systems are superior to analogue systems in both performance and flexibility for speech and music; and also, in ease and simplicity of use.

We will have “zoning” for different types and styles of service and areas of the Church, with pre-set levels. For example: a small service in the Chancel; a small congregation in the Nave; a very full Church (Remembrance, Weddings, Funerals); overflow in the West Room; feed to the Upper Hall; or completely separate quality audio for Whizz Kidz activities, etc. in the Upper Hall.

All media types will be accommodated, not just CDs; and can be controlled by remote with a simple phone app. The system will work automatically to eliminate feedback. In addition to the full digital control panel, simple adjustments (volume, mute) to individual inputs can be made, again via a simple phone app, from any position in the Church.

The system will also come with a Digital Hymnal. The Hymnal can be detached from the PA system, with its own built in speakers, and can be used to provide high quality musical accompaniment for care home services, and for anytime in church when organ accompaniment is unavailable, or the organ is out of action. Currently Fr Andrew and Jackie Bramford use their own personal CD players where none are available in the care homes.

There will be flexibility to expand or add to the system in the future, should the need arise; and the new system comes with a 3-year warranty; with compatible spares, etc. available “off the shelf” for years to come.

HOPE FOR THE EARTH

‘Hope for the Earth’, Saturday 12 October, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Holy Trinity Church – You are invited to learn more about the state of our planet, and how churches and individual Christians can respond. This talk and Q&A with Andy Lester (Head of Conservation, A Rocha UK) hosted by Holy Trinity Church builds on the ‘Listening to the Leaves’ conference held here in March and the diocesan commitment to promote eco-church/eco-diocese. To register, please contact Catriona Gundlach (01636 817232 or catriona@southwell.anglican.org).

BRAMLEY APPLE FESTIVAL OF FOOD AND DRINK

Bramley Apple Festival of Food and Drink, Saturday 19 October, 10.00am-4.00pm, Nave – As part of this town-wide celebration, we will once again be holding the Bramley Food and Drink Festival in the Minster. There will be over thirty stalls offering a huge variety of food and drink and there will also be live cookery demonstrations. We will even have a stall selling locally grown

Bramley apples! Children's activities will be taking place in the State Chamber. Entry is a £3 suggested donation.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SUNDAY

Mental Health Awareness Sunday is on 13th October and a suggested theme for this year is 'Act of Kindness'. Churches may prefer to have their own focus to use in their own way, but 'Act of Kindness' seemed right for this year and it fits in well with the NHS '5 Steps to Mental Wellbeing'. The NHS guideline 'Give to Others' says this: 'even the smallest act can count, whether it's a smile, a thank you or a kind word...'

More about the five steps can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stressanxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>

Most importantly, however, 'Act of Kindness' fits in well with our calling as Christ's disciples. Kindness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and we pray for this fruit to grow and flourish in our lives. One member of the Opening Minds Group looked into the number of times that the words 'lovingkindness', 'kindness', 'kind' and 'love' are used in different parts of the Amplified Bible. As an example, lovingkindness is used 119 times in the Psalms alone!

Being kind – or having lovingkindness – is manifested in how we relate to one another and about how we respond to a perceived or obvious need. However, it's important to try to have a balanced approach and to be wise – we need to guard against being too intrusive. Having said that, even small acts

of kindness can make a big difference in our day to day lives. We plan to have a story about a simple act of kindness and other resources on the diocesan website in time for Mental Health Awareness Sunday on 13th October.

The Revd Clare Tyack

PREPARE FOR ADVENT NOW!

A special evening with Bishop Peter Price is taking place in Southwell Minster on Thursday 24th October, 7.30 - 8.45pm.

Come and join Bishop Peter for an evening of reflection, conversation and worship on the themes from his recent book, *A Shaking Reality: Daily Reflections for Advent*.

NOW WE'RE COOKING!

“Now We’re Cooking” will provide hands on experience of cooking affordable, tasty food in a community setting for small groups of people, particularly people who feel isolated. Six places are available for the next course, to be held at St Mary’s Church, starting on Monday 4 November 10am – 1pm, for 6 weeks. What will happen? We will learn to cook together and then eat together. It will be fun and flexible-no cooking skills needed. All are welcome, but sorry, no children. The course is free, but anyone interested needs to apply for a place before Friday 18 October ☎07307 897283 or email foodforgood2019@gmail.com or website <http://www.nwc.today/>

HARVEST SOCIAL – Sat 12 October at 6.30pm

MAMMA MIA SINGALONG

The evening will be like this

Play film - sing along

Quiz on tables relating to Abba and film.

Raffle

Each table performs a song from the film.

Marked on performance, by the other tables.

Supper, jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings.

Cost £5 Under 14's £2.50. Please see Eleanor Lang for tickets

Bring your own drinks. Soft drinks, tea and coffee provide.

THE TOWER

As in previous years, the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers has produced a calendar. This year's presentation is slightly different in that the photographs have been replaced by watercolour reproductions of twelve Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Churches. These are by a local artist, John M Pooler, who is a member of the Nottingham Society of artists. At £6, the calendar remains excellent value for money and is available now from Robert Naylor, who will have copies in Church with him on Sundays or can be contacted on 0115 9161787. A point of interest is that the page for January carries a painting of a snow scene, including our own Church, of St Mary and All Souls, here in Bulwell.

Robert Naylor - Tower Captain

ST MARY'S PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERAL – September 3 Michael Barker RIP

We give thanks for the life of Michael and remember Michaels' loved ones in their grief and that they may know the peace of God.

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