



Keeping in Touch

October - November 2017

In his famous poem "To Autumn" Keats wrote
" Seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness!
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;"



We celebrated this lovely season with our Harvest festival last weekend. The church looked beautiful, thanks to Diana, Jean and Jacqui for all their hard work. We shared a delicious harvest supper with our friends from St. Ethelreda's and a big thank you to Sue and the social committee for all their hard work. Above all we gave thanks to God for another harvest safely gathered in during our services on Sunday. The food gifts that were so generously given were supplemented by St. Mary's School as they came up to church on Monday for their harvest service. The gifts were gratefully collected by "Feed" the food bank in St. Albans who will ensure that they get to those in need over the coming months. Our harvest collection this year is going to an exciting new project that is being set up by the Mayor of Hatfield, the fire service and the churches of Hatfield to provide a night shelter for those who are homeless during the winter months. After lots of meetings and prayer St. Luke's, part of our Bishop's Hatfield team, was offered as a venue for the shelter. This means that between November and March the church will be open to feed and shelter those sleeping rough. For more information on the shelter and how you can be involved do look at the website www.hatfieldnightshelter.co.uk This is a wonderful opportunity for the church to show God's love in a very practical way and I do hope that you will support this project with your prayer.

In addition to our thanksgiving for harvest we have also been thinking about how we, at St. Mary's, can be sowers of the seed of God's kingdom. There has been a good response to the questions that we have been asking of our regular worshippers about our life together and now we need to ask questions of the wider community about how we can better serve and share God's love with them. To that end you will find enclosed with this newsletter a simple questionnaire that we would like you to use with your neighbours, friends, community groups that you are involved with. Part of this process is about discerning the needs and hopes of the people where we live and we urgently need your help to do that. Can I ask you all to try and approach at least one

person or group with these questions? They are very short and can be answered anonymously and then returned either to the parish office or to the box that is out on the cross aisle in church. And please do continue to pray our mission prayer as we go through this process. We so need God's guidance and wisdom as we discern where he is leading us by his Holy Spirit. Let us pray that the Lord of the harvest will help us to sow his love and bring home the harvest of many to his kingdom.

Hats and Mitts on display

Over the past year a committed band of knitters have been beavering away knitting hats and mitts for Syrian refugees and after the service on 10th September we got a chance to see the amazing work they had done before it is all sent off. The knitted bunting made for the summer festival has also been sewn together to make lovely warm blankets.



Don't miss out on the next **SING** on **22nd October at 3.00pm** in St Michael's Room



On 22nd October there will be the return of the popular Community Singing event. It is proving to be a great success with regulars being joined by those who have seen the advert as they visited the church or are walkers passing by. Following what is sure to be some excellent singing everyone will be treated to tea and cake.



Annual Memorial Service offers the opportunity to remember loved ones particularly those who have died recently. This year the service will be held at St Mary's on **Sunday 5th November** starting at 4.00pm. It is a quiet service of hymns, readings and prayers during which the names will be read out and candles lit in memory of those who have died. A book will be opened in the church in October for anyone to enter the names of people they wish to be remembered. Tea and cakes served in St Michael's Room before and after the service.

Card Sale

There will be a Card Sale on **Friday 17th November** **6.00pm—8.00pm** in St Michael's Room. The cards are designed and produced by those attending the current art workshop.



Back by popular demand! ST MARY'S NORTH MYMMS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 1ST—3RD DECEMBER 2017

The St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival is back from 1st—3rd December 2017. The theme this year is **JOURNEYS**—real ones, personal ones, fictional ones, biblical ones only limited by your imagination. We are inviting families, individuals, businesses, schools and organisations to enter trees.

Interested?—contact Sheila Hoile Sheila.hoile@btinternet.com or download information and an entry form from www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

The programme for the Festival is

Friday 1st December

Preview Evening
7.00pm Mulled wine, light refreshments
8.00pm Concert by the Buck Brass Trio
Ticket entry - £10.00
Contact :-
Jill Pratt – prattmsm@hotmail.com
Brenda Harris -01707 655355

Saturday 2nd December

Festival open 10.30am – 4.00pm
Children's Workshops
Refreshments,
Cake, craft and book stalls

Sunday 3rd December

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Service
12noon-4.00pm Festival open
Refreshments,
Cake, craft and book stalls
6.30pm Advent Evensong

*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 Eucharist

1st Sunday of the Month	10.30am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
3rd Sunday of the Month	11.30am	Baptisms

Parish Registers for April and May 2017

Baptisms

6 August Ruwa Evans and Kerry Tate

13 August Dylan Chivers, Kerry Morris and Harrison Howell

17 September Haille and George Carpenter

Weddings

9 September Victoria Crake and Lindsay Sinclair

23 September Gemma Taylor and Michael Taylor

Funerals

4 August Burial of Ashes of Frank Maynard

13 August Burial of Ashes of Lily Beaumont

15 September Funeral of Joan Knight

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