



**We are a community of faith
that SEEKS God in worship
SERVES one another
and SHARES the love of Jesus**

Sunday 22nd October

Theme: Modelling Faith

**Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
and Matthew 22:15-22**

9am Holy Communion

10.20am Children's Church (3 - 13+)

**meet in the Church Centre for their activities,
before joining their families in church
for Communion and Final Blessing**

10.30am Morning Worship with Communion and Prayer Ministry

Wednesday 25th October

**Holy Communion Service at 10.30am
in St. Mary's Church led by Canon Jill**

Sunday 29th October

Theme: In Jesus' Name

**Readings: Colossians 3:12-17
and Matthew 24:30-35**

9.50am Children's Church (3 - 13+)

**meet in the Church Centre for their activities,
before joining their families in church
for Communion and Final Blessing**

10am Morning Worship with Communion and Prayer Ministry

*There is an unsupervised crèche available for 0-3 year olds,
through the doors at the back of church.*

*This area contains toys, books, colouring and comfortable seating,
in addition to sound and vision, so you can see and hear the service.*

Message from Reverend Lee

It's a strange feeling moving from Curacy to our first Parish, especially as it's only next door and we've not yet moved house! But we'd like to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to all of you at St. Mary's. I've really enjoyed starting my ministry with you and doing all the 'first time' things that happen during Curacy and really felt your prayers, love and support during our time with you, especially during the difficult times. I'd especially like to say 'thank you' to Canon John for all that he's invested in me during my curacy. Finally, a big 'thank you' to all of you that contributed to the very generous gift of appreciation that was presented to me last evening by Gordon, we were touched by the support from those of you who were able to make it and for your generosity. This isn't 'goodbye' as we're not really moving location, so 'see you around' and 'thank you' once again. Reverend Lee, Emily, Jordan, Timmy, Luke and Annie-Joy.

Christmas Choir

We are seeking this year to have a Christmas Choir once again and would love it if you would join us. The next practice is on **Monday 23rd October at 7.30pm** and will continue on the following dates: 30th October, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November in the Church Centre Chapel. The last practices on the 4th and 11th December will be in church. It is not too late if you wish to join the choir, please speak with Pru or just come along.

Alpha Course

Please hold in your prayers all those attending the current course, leaders Kate Walbyoff and Tom Etherton, in addition to Scott, Julie, Victoria and Charlotte. Pray too for the Holy Spirit Day on **Saturday 28th October**, that the Lord would richly bless all those who are able to attend.

Concert in St. Mary's

A concert will be held on **Saturday 28th October starting at 5pm**, in St. Mary's Church. Olav's Menn, a Male Voice Choir from Norway, will be joined by the Harmonium Singers. All are very welcome, admission is free with a retiring collection.

Children's Light Party

This will be held on **31st October from 6pm to 7pm** in St. Mary's Church. We will have a craft, video worship, video aerobics, a gospel message, interactive talks, a live and very happy pumpkin carving as well as a quieter prayer zone. In addition, we will provide refreshments for parents. Most importantly, we would value your prayers as we seek to provide a safe alternative for children; for God to encourage and draw children to Him. Donations of cakes for parents will be needed by 5.30pm on the 31st October. Do speak with Diane in the Church Office if you can help, or just bring in any cakes to the office between 9.30am and 2pm or to the church after 3pm. Thank you. Andy and Jo.

Parish Prayers

Many of us miss out on so much because we only pray by ourselves. Yet, when Jesus gave us an outline for prayer, He spoke about praying together. There is power in group prayer. If you are not praying with other believers, then you are not getting the support you need. You are missing out on one of the major benefits of being a Christian. Jesus says, "***Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them***" (Matthew 18:19-20 TEV). That is the power of praying with other people. So do please join us when we meet on **Thursday 2nd November, from 7.30pm** for about an hour, in the Church Centre, and be blessed by God.

The Friends Coffee Morning

You are assured of a warm welcome when you join us on **Saturday 4th November 10am to 12 noon** in the Church Centre for the next Coffee Morning. Come and enjoy good company and excellent refreshments!

3R's (Relax, Refresh, Revive) Café

Thank you to those of you who support this outreach to the residents of Picket Twenty. Please continue to support us on **Saturday 4th November from 2pm to 4pm** at Pilgrims' Cross School, especially if you are able to bake a cake or other goodies to offer to those who attend. Cakes, (do please include a note of ingredients), can be left with Diane in the Church Office on Friday 3rd November between 9.30am and 4pm. Thank you.

St. Mary's Walkers - Date for your Diary

We will be back out in the fresh air from **12.15pm on Sunday 5th November**. More details to follow!

All Souls Service

This year our service will be held on **Sunday 5th November at 3pm** in St. Mary's Church, as we gather to remember those who have died and offer prayers of thanksgiving for their lives. There will be a sheet at the back where people can record names of loved ones, and these will be read out during the service. You are welcome to stay for tea and refreshments after the service.

Prayer Ministry Training

We are holding a Prayer Ministry Training Day in the Church Centre on **Saturday 25th November from 10am to 12 noon**, refreshments will be available from 9.45am. If anyone is interested in being on the team or would like to know more, please contact Tim or Rosemary Townsend.

Christmas Cards

Bryan Beggs has donated some lovely Christmas Cards depicting St. Mary's Church. They are available at the back of church and he suggests you give a donation to the St. Mary's Church Appeal Fund.

Church Opening on Saturdays

St. Mary's Church is open on **Saturday mornings**, usually from **10.30am to 12.30pm**, thanks to a willing group of volunteers acting in pairs. We need more volunteers, so that each person opens the church no more than once every two months. If you are willing, or interested in finding out more, please contact Martin Bazire.

*We always thank God for all of you,
mentioning you in our prayers.*

*We continually remember before our God and Father
your work produced by faith,
your labour prompted by love
and your endurance
inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



Donations Required

- Teddies and other cuddly toys or dolls for adoption stall
- Bric-a-brac
- Good quality, clean, toys
- New gifts
- Books
- Tombola items
- Raffle prizes
- Items for luxury food hamper (check use-by dates!)
- Contributions to produce stall (cakes nearer the time!)

Please leave all donations in the box at the back of church.

Please sign up for a 45 minute session manning one of the stalls if you are available.

If you don't have anything to give, a cash donation towards the mince pies or other items would be gratefully received!

Thank you!

'Sharing God's Life'

- what might be God's invitation to you?!

This workshop provides an opportunity to 'get connected' to God's purposes for you, and to discover how a Rule of Life might support you in your discipleship.

Led by the Reverend Sally Dakin, Spirituality Adviser.

Date: Friday 3rd November

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

Venue: St. Mary's Church

Format: Input and prayer

*Time alone; optional chat with Sally
Plenary and prayer*

