

St Mary's 2019 Newsletter

April 2020

The Church's year in words and pictures

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The Parish Church of Lymm Rector's welcome



Welcome to the annual St Mary's Newsletter. I hope it will give you a taste of the wide variety of activities which make up your Parish Church of Lymm. You will also be able to find full details of our Parish Finances and Administration in my 2019 Annual Report and Accounts which are available with this Newsletter.

Reverend Beverley Jameson, Rector

Christmas Tree Festival now a popular Lymm fixture

This event has become a regular fixture on Lymm's Calendar and its popularity is increasing. This, the 5th Festival, held over the weekend 6th – 8th December saw 46 trees, all supplied by local groups and organisations, decorated to the theme 'Christmas is Coming' filling the church. This year we launched the book 'Monty and Bertie to the Rescue', a tale of the church bat and mouse at St Mary's. Hand crafted mice and bats were for sale; the Church Mouse Trail was popular with younger visitors. An informal Family Advent service was held on Sunday; throughout the weekend entertainment was provided by Ravenbank and Statham Primary Schools Choirs, Lymm High School Brass Ensemble, Lymm Pop Choir, Lymm Golf Club Ladies Ukulele Band, Lymm and District Chorus and Serenade. Other attractions included a Craft and Produce stall and a café.



Rushbearing



May Queen Stall



National Flower Arranging Day



Creamfields Team



Remembrance Sunday 2019



Afternoon Teas



Tithe Maps Presentation



FAMILIES WELCOME

New way to welcome families and children to worship at St Mary's



Crafts and Snacks Launch

During 2019, Sunday School and, later,

Praise and Play stopped meeting on a regular basis. There were a number of reasons for the falling numbers including other activities involving families and children at the same times.

As a way of providing a different type of offer designed to appeal to families, the Rector, supported by the PCC and an enthusiastic team of helpers, launched our new Crafts and Snacks for March 2020. Building on the Rector's links with the schools and the success of Experience Easter, this new mission opportunity involving crafts and worship for primary school children will take place at St Mary's once a month at 11.00am on a Saturday during term time.

This is mainly aimed at primary school children and their families, although younger children would be welcome and a crèche will be set up for children too young to take part in the crafts.

After a welcome, children will be able to take part in 4 or 5 craft activities, followed by a short informal worship time with songs, a bible based reading and talk. We round off with a snack lunch for everyone.

The launch date is **14 March 2020** and a 'permanent' name for the event will be voted on by those taking part.

The Rector ran a very successful similar event in her previous parish with over 50 children and 100 adults attending regularly. It will take some time to build up this new initiative, but we pray that over the next year we shall see a growing number of families coming along.



Experience Easter 2019



MOTHERS' UNION

Christian care for families



St Mary's Mothers' Union Branch meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

The Mothers' Union theme for 2019 was 'Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God' which is something Mothers' Union members are always doing. At our AGM we thanked Hilary Bolton for her support over the last 20 years as treasurer. During the year we had joint events with the Church Fellowship including a Quiet Afternoon, a talk, an Annual Lunch, and an Annual Christmas Social. Throughout the year we have continued to provide 'teddies' for children being baptised at St Mary's. We featured a tree at St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival using decorations made by our members. We attended meetings in the fellowship room, Diocesan events, provided donations to help Syrian refugees, shared ideas, prayed, supporting the Mothers' Union charities and church activities. If you would like to be involved with the Mothers' Union and its charitable work please come along to see what we do.

Derek Buckthorpe

Church Watch

Church Watch started 14 years ago when the PCC decided to lock the church each day because of vandalism, and once we had toilets and water throughout the church, the risk of damage was increased.

It was important to give access to those people who want to view the remembrance book, to pray at troubled times and to view our lovely church. We miss Bill Garrett from the team. He was so understanding and always seemed to say the most appropriate words.

We have had visitors from Houston USA, Sydney Australia, France, Cork and Ireland, as well as throughout the British Isles: Preston, Lytham, St Helens, Bristol, Brixton, and more.

We had a resident aged 100 from a home in Lymm, who said " She had never seen anything like our Christmas Tree event (never too late). This event brought a lot of positive comments. Many expressed thanks for the warm welcome.

Our team is a small one and we have recently had an offer from Peter. We would be very grateful for more volunteers; help will be given. We open the church on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 12noon. As yet there is no Church Watch on Fridays. Please think about volunteering and let me know.

Heather Warren

FAIR
TRADE**St Mary's is a Fairtrade Church:**

In 2019 we sold **£681.40** worth of Fairtrade goods in church from our monthly Fairtrade stalls. We have found out that Tradecraft are struggling and there could be a shortage of Fair Trade sugar and coffee this year.

Many committed volunteers collect, set up and return the 'Sale or Return' stall to the 'Fair4All' co-operative based in Warrington Market, and the responsibility for ensuring the stalls are available at St Mary's is a lot easier as a result of their hard work.

Ride and Stride

Historic Cheshire Churches Ride and Stride

The annual sponsored ride was held in September. Seven intrepid cyclists completed 24 miles visiting a number of Cheshire Churches. The money raised was divided between Cheshire Historic Churches Preservation Trust and St Mary's Church.



Lymm and District Churches Together Prayer Breakfast January 2020

Church Fellowship

The Church Women's Fellowship decided to amend its name in order to be more inclusive. We no longer meet on a monthly basis due to falling numbers. However we organised and enjoyed a joint Christmas afternoon tea with the Mothers' Union in early December. We are also hoping to have a reunion lunch out in April and also a strawberry tea in the summer.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

REPORT FROM THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER TO THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 2020

1. The PCC continues to adopt and implement the Safeguarding guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese of Chester.
2. Full details of the above can be found on the diocesan website. Diocese of Chester Safeguarding and Vulnerability Policy & Procedures: 'Safe in our care'.
3. The Diocesan Vulnerability and Safeguarding Officer is Pauline Butterfield who can be contacted regarding all safeguarding issues.
4. All individuals whose roles within St Mary's require a DBS check hold a current certificate. During 2019 all members of the Pastoral Care Team have had DBS checks completed. These will all be renewable every five years.
5. All documentation regarding Church Hall bookings is in line with the safeguarding policy.
6. My telephone number, along with those of 'Childline', 'Family Lives', and Warrington Children's and Adult Services are displayed in both the church and church hall.
7. All authorized clergy, Safeguarding Officer, licensed readers and lay workers, church wardens and PCCs have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (including both policy and practice guidance).
8. Our annual Parish Safeguarding Audit, as required by the Diocese, has been completed and presented to the PCC at their March 2020 meeting.

Chris Scott

The Bookworms meet every two months to discuss a wide variety of book from all genres, chosen for discussion by its members..

This year these included a non fiction book, *'The Salt Path'* by Raynor Winn and a collection of short stories by Kazuo Ishiguro, *'Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall'*. We read novels based in a number of different cities: *'Every Single Minute'* by Hugo Hamilton, *'Exit West'* by Mohsin Hamid, *'A Gentleman in Moscow'* by Amor Towles, *'A Far Cry from Kensington'* by Muriel Spark and *'A Long Night in Paris'* by Dov Alfon

'The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle' by Stuart Turton, a crime story with a twist and on a lighter note *'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine'* by Gail Honeyman completed the list of books read in 2019.

New members are always welcome. If you enjoy reading and a good discussion then please join us.

Sue Walton

It has been another steady year for the ringers. Again, with the help of friends from neighbouring towers we rang for all services and for 4 weddings. We also had a joint practice with Knutsford. We did break a stay! That is not something we have done for many years. The stay is a wooden bar attached to the headstock and pointing away from the bell. When the bell is set at the point of balance, the stay rests against the slider. It can get 'bumped' especially when people are learning to ring, and cracks in the wood may then lead to a break. Some ingenuity, skill and effort led to the identification of some suitable Ash and a replacement was soon made.

In March 4th Lymm Beavers visited us to learn about the bells and the way we ring them, and the Cubs made a similar visit in June. We were delighted that for three months over the summer a young person joined our practices to learn to handle a bell for the skills element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are hoping others completing the Award might consider this as a useful new skill. It will give them a fascinating three months and might lead some to a longer-term interest in the art of change ringing.



Tower Report



Choir and Music Notes

In the March magazine I outlined the choir's contribution to our worship here at St Mary's Lymm over the past 10 years, so I won't write about numbers of notes sung. The past year has proceeded much as previous years. Tom and Chris have continued to lead our children's hymns with guitar and keyboard. Tom is training for another role in the Ministry so has not always been available to sing in the choir. Angela continues to sing with us from time to time. She was joined by Joycelyn towards the end of the year but she will have moved by the time you read this. It was good to welcome Geoff back at the beginning of this year. It is always nice when you have 4-part harmony. I should not sign off without a very

big thank you to our anonymous donor who covered the cost of repairing one of our organ amplifiers. Roy Sutton



Editor adds: We cannot conclude this report without noting Roy's retirement as organist and choirmaster in February 2020. Our grateful thanks go to Roy for the years of faithful service at St Mary's. Thank you for the music Roy!

Everyone in the church is grateful to the choir for their commitment and music every Sunday.

Church Flowers

Sue Walton, helped by Vanessa Lees (and other willing volunteers at the major festivals) continues to ensure that our church flowers always look their best every week. A great deal of work goes into ensuring a fantastic display at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Members of the congregation are invited to make donations for the Easter lilies in remembrance of loved ones who have gone before us, and whose names are placed on the Scroll of Remembrance displayed during the Easter season.

