



St Mary's News and Notices

Conversion Of St Paul 25 January 2026

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10.00am Holy Communion

Funeral Service for Heulwen Smith

30 January 2026 11.30am

The Reverend Mark Orrell will preach and preside at our 10.00am Holy Communion Service

Warden's Words – from Liz and George

Our PCC meeting on Monday began with a discussion with our Archdeacon, Michael Gilbertson and Rural Dean, Michael Ridley, about the future. While we made clear that we were open to any proposals to work with St Peter's and St Werburgh's we emphasised that we had, in effect, been without a Rector for a year and were keen to move forward with recruitment as fast as possible. One of the issues has been that none of us has been paying our full parish share. Last year we paid about 60% of our share (£55,000). This year we are expected to pay the diocese £80,000. We have taken the decision, made possible by a generous recent legacy, to pay £70,000 now and to undertake to meet the full share within 3 years.

We thought carefully about this and are confident that with the energy and enthusiasm evident in St Mary's now, and with a new Rector to lead us, we can grow our church family. On that basis the Archdeacon will ask the Bishops to agree to our going ahead with recruitment. If the Bishops agree, it will still take us a while to complete the process, but we will progress as fast as we can and maybe we shall have a new Rector by the summer. We will keep you all updated.

Heulwen Smith – funeral Friday 30th January at 11.30am.

It is with the greatest sadness that we have learned of the death of Heulwen Smith on Wednesday 7th January, just one day short of her 90th Birthday. She served St Mary's faithfully over many years, was Reader/Reader Emeritus and we give thanks for all she did to strengthen so many in their own journey of faith.

Her funeral will be at St Mary's on Friday 30th January at 11.30am following the committal at the crematorium.

Godly Play returns to St Mary's on 8th February at 10.00am

We are pleased to announce that we will be beginning a monthly reintroduction of Godly Play to our Sunday worship, starting monthly for the time being. Children and young people aged 5 – 14 are invited to come along to our 10.00am service. We begin in church with all our church family, and then we go to the Fellowship Room for the Godly Play session, returning at the Communion for a blessing and the end of the service.

If you know of any child or young person who would like to give it a try, do invite them to come. Parents are



requested to be in church and are welcome to come to the Fellowship Room to take part and see what we do.

If anyone has any questions, please have a word with Vanessa Lees, Carol Roberts or Jill Wasey.

Winners of Sensory Garden Competition

The presentation of prizes to the winners of our Sensory Garden competition will take place on **Sunday 1st February at 2.00pm** in the Church Hall Garden. Do come along and support the Lymm schoolchildren who have contributed to this project to enhance our garden. All welcome.

Lent Course 2026 – Draw Near – Life giving habits for Lent

This year's Lent course is from the Church of England and is called 'Draw Near' life giving Habits for Lent. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Room on **Monday afternoons at 2pm** from the first Monday in Lent for anyone who wishes to join us. Everyone is welcome to join us for any week or all the Lent Course, please come along when you can.

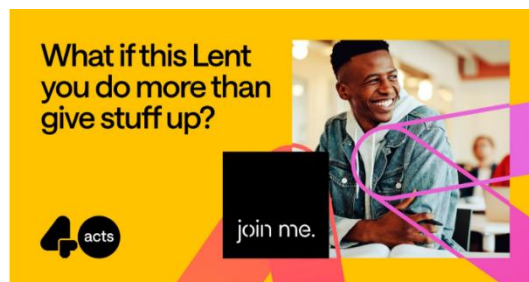


We have a small booklet with daily readings and thoughts for you to use at home and this will form the springboard for our weekly get togethers.

We'll meet in the Fellowship Room at 2.00pm -3.30pm for a relaxed time of discussion and reflection, with the famous St Mary's refreshments.

Join us on **Mondays 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March.**

Please see Derek Buckthorpe or Ian Bunday for a booklet and to express an interest. 'Draw Near' offers us the opportunity to strengthen our habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter. Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship - **worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news** with others. There is also a special version for children.



The course has a supporting book 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God' which includes a foreword and afterword by the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, Dame Sarah Mullaly, and an introduction by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. It offers a confident and hopeful vision of faith lived out in everyday life.

You can also sign up to the Everyday Faith App which will carry reflections based on the booklet.

Epiphany Gifts

Could you add one more gift to your list? A gift to the church for Epiphany? Perhaps 10% of what you spent on presents for others? That would be wonderful.

You can give either by:

- using one of the special yellow gift envelopes available in church

- making a one-off payment to:
Parochial Church Council of Lymm
Sort code: 20-01-96
Account no: 90703893
- using our card machine in church – please ask for help to use it
- putting an extra gift in the collection plate

Donating Regularly

If you have not yet considered making a regular donation to the church, and would like to do so, please have a word with Elizabeth France or David Young. There are several ways of doing this – by joining the envelope scheme or by setting up a regular standing order from your bank. If you are able to Gift Aid a regular donation, that will be a big help in making your donation go even further. You can find a Gift Aid Form attached to this newsletter.

Prayer during our Church Vacancy

To help us in our worship during our Church Vacancy a special prayer has been developed which we hope everyone will be willing to use and to pray daily, at our services on Sunday or whenever we meet as a group. It is important that we ask for God's help in everything we do and especially as we go forward working together to bring a new Rector to St Mary's. We all have a part to play in what is happening and we can all influence the outcome. With God's help we will succeed in getting the right person to help us grow in faith and to lead us forward in whatever God puts before us. **Derek and Ian.**

Vacancy Prayer



O God our Father, send your Holy Spirit to our Church of St Mary's Lymm, to fill us with vision, energy, and love. Help us to bring new life to our community and fellowship, and in unity and expectation, remain ever faithful to your calling.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom those involved in bringing a new minister to this Church that whomever we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd. We pray that the minister of your choice will hear your call and respond in faith, ready to serve us with joy, and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Services January/February/March 2026

Conversion of St Paul 25 January 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Mark Orrell
Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas 01 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Anita Raggett
2 nd Sunday Before Lent Thanksgiving Sunday 08 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion with Godly Play session Priest Reverend Michael Ridley
Sunday Next Before Lent 15 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore
Ash Wednesday 18 February 2026	10.00am Ash Wednesday Service Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport
1 st Sunday of Lent 22 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell

2 nd Sunday of Lent 01 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine	12.00pm Holy Baptism Reverend Keith Hine
3 rd Sunday of Lent 08 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Anita Raggett	
Mothering Sunday 15 March 2026	10.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service	6.30pm Said Holy Communion Reverend Keith Hine
Passiontide Sunday 22 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell	
Palm Sunday 29 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore	

Green Tips – Spring Cleaning

Spring is almost here, and with it comes the perfect opportunity to refresh our homes, clear away the clutter, and bring a sense of renewal into our lives. Spring cleaning isn't just about a tidy home—it's a chance to reset, lighten the mental load, and create a space that supports well-being.



The Happy Turtle website gives us a great To Do List: <https://www.thehappyturtlestrow.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-an-eco-friendly-spring-cleaning/>

Want to buy eco-friendly cleaning products? Look for what our local supermarkets sell e.g. the brand Method. The shop in the village Watson and Wilde(next to The Bulls Head pub) stocks all the Minimal products and refills for your bottles.

There are some excellent websites too which supply great products at competitive prices:

<https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk/product-category/for-the-home/>
<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/category/cleaning-and-household/>

Please Pray

- For those asking for prayer on our St Mary's Prayer Tree
- For our Churchwardens, Lay Readers, visiting clergy and all involved in running our church during our period of vacancy
- For the humanitarian effort bringing help to many in Gaza
- All those suffering as a result of conflict in Ukraine
- Remember in prayer those in the Book of Remembrance for today and the next week
- For those being prayed for by St Mary's Prayer Circle

Contact Details

Website - www.stmaryslymm.org

Rector: Vacancy

Lay Readers: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286

Church Wardens: Elizabeth France 07956 408300 George Bainton 01925 757732

PCC Secretary: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810

PCC Treasurer: David Young 01925 759919

Choir Director / Organist: Susan Gadd 07398 399121

Church Hall Secretary: Kath Hough Telephone: 01925 754435

Pastoral Care Team: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810, Pauline Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286

St Mary's Prayer Circle – Co-ordinator for Prayer Requests Jill Wasey 01925 754265 email jhwasey@yahoo.co.uk Members - Susan Brooks 01925 755735 Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810, Pauline Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286 Vanessa Lees 01925 757471, Angela Roberts, Jill Wasey

Church Wi-Fi Wifi name = St Marys Church Wifi code = Welcome2Everyone **FIRE EXITS VIA THE MAIN ENTRANCE, THE DISABLED ENTRANCE BY THE TOILETS AND THE EXTERNAL DOOR VIA THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM**