



St Mary's News and Notices

Third Sunday of Lent 08 March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent
08 March 2026 10.00am Holy Communion
with Godly Play in the Fellowship Room

The Reverend Anita Raggett will preach and preside at our 10.00am service

Godly Play at St Mary's – 08 March



The next Godly Play session will be at 10.00am on Sunday 8th March. We will be enjoying the story of The Parable of the Good Shepherd. Please invite any children or families you know who might like to give Godly Play a try.

Wardens' Words – from Liz and George

In a busy PCC meeting on Monday, the last of the year, our most important decision was to pay our full parish share during this year and so get on with finding a full time Rector with no review required on the length of the appointment.

We also agreed to work with our Architect to put together a programme of work for the next 3-5 years which will bring together plans to improve our internal lighting and, in the longer term, develop a welcome area at the west end of the church with essential work to address the dilapidation of the sandstone exterior. We hope this will focus fundraising as well as giving us a chance of successful grant applications.

Meanwhile we shall get on with the usual gutter and tile repairs!

We agreed to have a scarecrow and that the Heritage Centre should hold some graveyard walks during Lymm Festival and agreed that we would take part, as we did last year, in Heritage weekend in September.

Kath Buckley has lots of ideas for fundraising which will need your help and support as they develop.

Mothering Sunday Service – cake needed!

Next week we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday at our special Family Service. Could you help to provide some cake please to be served after the service? Thank you!



World Day of Prayer – Friday 06 March 2026



World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

All are welcome to come to the service at 7.00pm on Friday, 6th March at Lymm United Reformed Church.

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials have been written by women from Nigeria, who bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Giving to St Mary's - !!!!!Urgent action needed if you give by Standing Order!!!!

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has been a regular giver to St Mary's. Your donations are vital to the Church particularly at a time when we need to demonstrate to the Diocese that we can afford to pay our parish share, in order to be allowed to recruit a full time Rector, and at the same time find some resources to plan a programme of work to deal with the exterior dilapidation of the building.

If you currently donate by means of a Bank Standing Order, we now need you to take urgent action. Lloyds Bank has decided to close our account. It will be closed in the next few days and so your March payment may be returned to you. We have appealed to Lloyds, but they have determined that we have too many Trustees despite this being a requirement set by the Diocese!

We have an account with Barclays. We need to ask you to **cancel your regular payment to the Lloyds account and to make a new standing order (or regular faster payment) to Barclays.**

These are the details you need:

Account Name: Parochial Church Council of Lymm

Sort Code: 20-01-96

Account Number: 90703893

If you have any problems let me know and we will help to sort them out. David our Treasurer will be watching anxiously over the coming days as you will understand that our cash flow will be at risk while the transfers are made.

On the positive side this is giving an opportunity for us to review and update our banking arrangements, and I know you will use it as another opportunity to reflect prayerfully on your giving.

Thank you so much.

Liz France (Gift Aid Secretary and Warden)

Easter Lilies



At the end of Lent, we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday with a wonderful display of spring flowers and lilies. We are now accepting donations towards these flowers. There is an opportunity for this gift to be in memory of a departed loved one, in which case their names(s) will be included on the Scroll of Remembrance, which will be on display beside the Memorial Book during Easter.

Envelopes are now available at the back of church. Please give your donation to Sue Walton, Vanessa Lees or Carol Roberts. If you require further information, please speak to Sue (756520) or Vanessa (757471). **Thank you**

Decorating the Church for Easter

We are asking for your help once again in decorating St Mary's for Easter.



On **8th March**, Easter baskets will be available at the back of church. You are kindly requested to take one of the baskets and return it filled with spring flowers and seasonal greenery. There are 2 sizes to choose from and detailed



instructions are included. Please return the basket to church on **Saturday 4th April** between 10.30am and 11.00am.

Examples will be available for you to see. Thank you for helping us make our Easter decorations so joyful.

Big Clean – Save the Date



Our next Big Clean will be on **Saturday 28th March 9.00am – 11.30pm**, to get our church building ready for Easter. We need as many pairs of hands as possible on that day to brush away the winter dust and make our church sparkle again. Please do lend a hand if you can – an hour or two really helps us to achieve a lot.

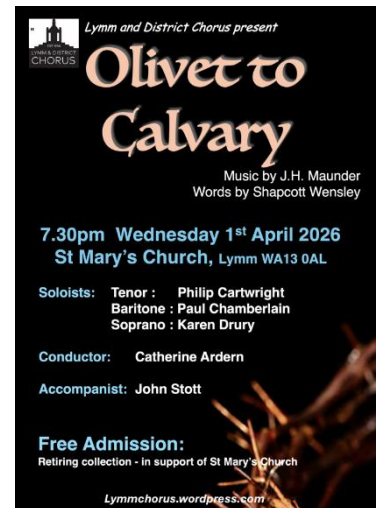
Lymm and District Chorus – Concert for Holy Week

Lymm and District Chorus will be performing Maunder's Passion cantata Olivet to Calvary at 7.30pm on **Wednesday, 1st April** at St Mary's. A moving and solemn but beautiful piece to give us time for reflection during Holy Week. Make a date in your diary to come along.



Choral Evensong at Great Budworth

The Choir and Organist of Chester Cathedral will be singing Choral Evensong at St Mary's and All Saints Great Budworth at 4.00pm on Sunday 8th March. All welcome.



Lymm and District Chorus present
Olivet to Calvary
Music by J.H. Maunder
Words by Shapcott Wensley

7.30pm Wednesday 1st April 2026
St Mary's Church, Lymm WA13 0AL

Soloists: Tenor : Philip Cartwright
Baritone : Paul Chamberlain
Soprano : Karen Drury

Conductor: Catherine Ardern
Accompanist: John Stott

Free Admission:
Retiring collection - in support of St Mary's Church

Lymmchorus.wordpress.com

Date of Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

These annual meetings will be held this year on **Sunday 17th May 2026** at 11.00am immediately after the 10.00am service. Please make a note in your diaries to attend these important meetings where elections are held for positions of church wardens, PCC members, and the Annual report will be discussed.

Electoral Roll – are you on the Electoral Roll yet?

The Electoral Roll Officer will be announcing in a couple of weeks from now that our Electoral Roll will be revised in readiness for our Annual Church Meetings on 17th May. Our new Roll was compiled in 2025, so all those names already on it will remain on the Roll unless they have asked to have their name removed. Since last April, several additional names have been added to the Roll.

Regular worshippers at St Mary's are entitled to apply to join the Roll at any time and forms are available at the back of church.

If you are not yet on our Roll, and would like to join it now, please see Vanessa Lees (Electoral Roll Officer) as soon as possible. Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at our Annual Meetings (see above), although you do need to have been on the Roll for six months to be allowed to be nominated as a PCC member.

Coffee/Tea - new rota out for March and April

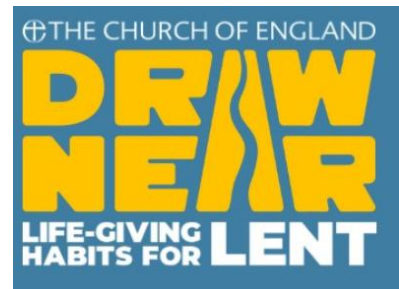
Thank you to all those who are enabling us to have tea and coffee after every service now. A new rota is now available to sign up for March and April. Please help if you can. If you've never done it before, we can show you what to do – please just ask. The more people who can help, the fewer times it comes round for everyone. Enjoy your coffee and tea!



Good Friday Coffee/tea/Hot Cross Buns Are you able to bring some buttered Hot Cross Buns or help to serve tea/coffee after the Good Friday 10.30am service. Please sign the list at the back of church.

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 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.

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 March/April 2026

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| 3 rd Sunday of Lent 08 March 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion (with Godly Play in FR) 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 | |
| Maundy Thursday 02 April 2026 | Chester Cathedral Service TBC | 6.30pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing Reverend Keith Hine |
| Good Friday 03 April 2026 | 10.30am Reflective Service | 12.00 noon Churches Together Service at the Cross |
| Easter Sunday 05 April 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore | 7.00am Sunrise Service at Lymm Dam (CTLD) |
| 2 nd Sunday of Easter 12 April 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine | |
| 3 rd Sunday of Easter 19 April 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion (with Godly Play in FR) Priest Reverend Anita Raggett | |
| 4 th Sunday of Easter 26 April 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell | |

Green Tips: Food Waste Action Week 9 – 15 March 2026

In March each year we focus the world's attention on an important but often unseen climate change issue: food waste.

Food Waste Action Week will take place 9-15 March 2026. Convened by Love Food Hate Waste, national and local governments, community groups, NGOs and brands around the world for action on food waste. The week inspires simple, practical action that helps food go further - saving money, time and stress, while protecting the planet.

Why Food Waste Action Week matters

In the UK, 60% of food waste happens in our homes. Each year, households throw away:

- 4.4 million tonnes of edible food
- Worth £17.5 billion
- Creating 16 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions

For a family of four, that's around £1,000 wasted every year.

At a time of rising costs and climate pressure, reducing food waste is one of the fastest, simplest ways to support households and cut emissions - through a few simple changes that give back both to your pocket and our planet.

<https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/take-action-save-food/food-waste-action-week>



Please Pray

- 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
- For all those affected by the warfare in the Middle East
- 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**