



FROM THE VICARS DESK



Dear friends,
Welcome to our new monthly newsletter.

This letter will come out from me now every month, to try and help keep you all up to date with “where we are” with our plans and projects as a PCC and church community.

Hopefully it will also help to keep you a little more informed as to what your vicar is up to!

Thought of the Day (from the writings of the Desert Fathers)

One day brother Doulas, who was a disciple of Father Bessarion, said: When we were walking along the sea one day I was thirsty, so I said to Father Bessarion, Father, I am very thirsty.

Then the old man prayed, and said to me, “Drink from the sea”. The water was sweet when I drank it.

And I began to pour it into a flask, so that I would not be thirsty later. Seeing this, the old man asked me, “Why are you doing that?”

I answered, “Excuse me, but it is so that I won’t be thirsty later on”.

Then the old man said, “God is here, and God is everywhere.”

I have shared this story with you as it helps remind us of the courage and trust that Jesus asked of his disciples – the twelve and then the seventy, as he sent them on their mission to share the good news.

At the heart of the disciple’s mission was a courageous trust and a faith that God would provide.

Just as Father Bessarion reassured his follower God is here and God is everywhere.

May we all hold to this same trust and courage in our mission and outreach as church.

Stepping out and reaching out with confidence that God is with us everywhere and that he will give us what we need to build His kingdom in this place.

I offer you this prayer for the coming month, please join me in praying it every morning and evening each day.

In every place and at every moment

You are present to us Father,

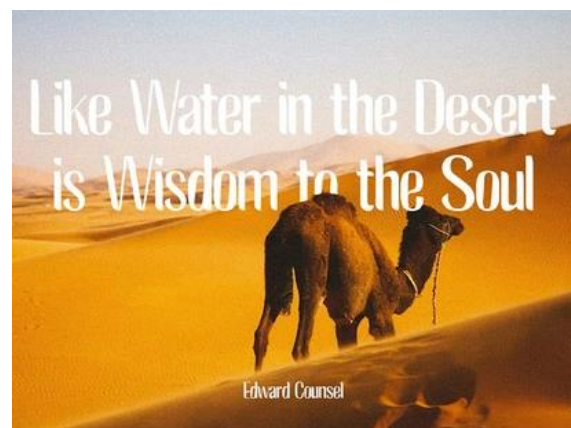
In generous love and compassion.

Empower us to be present to one another, and to all your children in the same way.

So that our presence may be a strength for the building and growing and healing of your Kingdom.

A presence that gives hope that is for all.

Through Jesus our Lord and Brother and friend Amen



News and information: -

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Thank you to everyone who came along to our APCM in the parish centre last weekend.

I hope that you also found it a positive and encouraging meeting. There are a lot of good things already happening at St Mary’s and it’s good to take stock of that from time to time and celebrate.

MAP (Mission Action Plan)

There are also some exciting new missional initiatives being explored & planned.

Details of these plans and the new Mission Action Plan will be shared in this newsletter as they are ready to be launched.

We will also be making printed copies of the PCC and subcommittee reports & minutes etc available in church for you to read throughout the year.

If you have any questions about anything at all that is already happening, or being planned for the Parish as we move forward; please do get in touch with me and I will try to answer your enquiry either personally or in this newsletter.

Social and community team

Those of you who were at the APCM, will know that we are looking to form a new team or committee to help plan and organise social and fundraising events for St Marys. This new team will work with our existing committees and church members in promoting and running such events and will meet either ad hoc or bimonthly (or however often its members decide.)

If you are interested in joining in and helping me build this team/ committee, please do email me, or give me a call.

News from number 63

As we await news of tangible progress on the building of a new vicarage, I'm pleased to pass on that improvements are being made to number 63, including the building of a conservatory as a space for meetings and discussions etc.

As soon as the necessary work has been completed, we will be looking out for a new & four-legged family member (canine)

I will keep you posted on progress!



Stewardship campaign

We are very keen to grow our church, and to reach deeper into our communities; but we need a little extra help to be able to do this. In the coming weeks we will be asking everyone to consider prayerfully how they might be able to

help and support us as we begin to move forwards.

The wedding of Amberley and James

We were delighted to celebrate the wedding of James and Amberley on Saturday 20th April. This was a truly joyful celebration of love and commitment. Thank you to everyone who helped make this so special. These are the words sent by them both to our church members who helped: ***“Thank you, we are both revelling in a beautiful weekend filled with joy. We’re so grateful for the wonderful service and we thank you, Andrew, Lizzie, John, Karen and everyone else involved. Everyone said what a beautiful service it was ...”***



The wedding of Amberley and James



In the Love of Christ. *Gary*

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