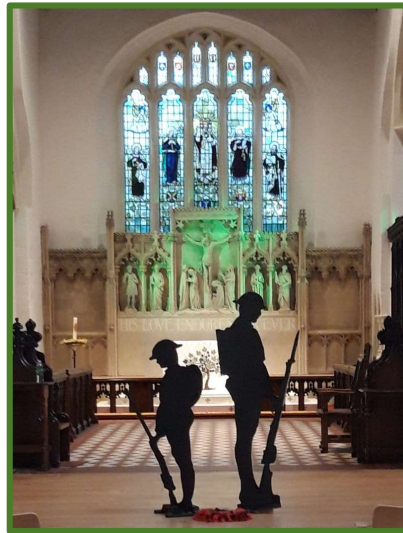


St Mary's News

November 2022



Includes

A Future of True Peace and Heavenly Joy?
St Mary's is Filled with Prayer and Praise for Watford
The English Cathedral Exhibition

... and much more!

A Future of True Peace and Heavenly Joy?



The month of November is always greeted with loud bangs and flashes of light as we remember 5th November. I am never quite sure what to make of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. Is it a time of celebration as we remember how the heinous crime to blow up the Houses of Parliament was uncovered and no doubt many lives were saved? Perhaps our yearly

remembrance serves as a warning to anyone else who may consider a similar act of treason? Yet even a casual look back in history would see Guy Fawkes representing a persecuted minority, and indeed one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter. With our present government in disarray and pushing forward policies that are considered controversial and divisive, and even unjust, perhaps there is a degree of sympathy with Guy Fawkes, or at least to ask the question who is the real villain of the piece?

I am not sure that terrorism, the wilful destruction of property or the shedding of innocent blood can ever be justified. At the same time, I think it is important that not only do we have the right to protest, but our voices are heard. It is the very fact that voices are not heard or are suppressed that leads to violent acts. I am also mindful of those who do not speak out against injustice who act as bystanders and whose silence condones the oppressor. I am often mindful of how silent the Church can be on matters of injustice and in particular not speaking out on behalf of persecuted Christians. We so invariably take our freedom and privileged position for granted.

Soon the loud bangs and flashes of light will stop, and the nation will fall silent. We will remember the cost and destruction of war and we will remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. For many, war is something we read about in our

history books or consider happened a long time ago. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War. For my generation it served as a paradigm shift. We had grown up listening to the stories of our parents and grandparents and their experiences of war, and now we knew of school friends and contemporaries setting out to defend our sovereignty. Of course, many of our armed forces personnel had experienced Northern Ireland but somehow this was different.

On Remembrance Sunday we not only remember the two World Wars but also the Falklands, Iraq, Afghanistan, Suez, Korea, Bosnia and many other conflicts of the past century. This year will have added significance because we will also be mindful of the war going on in Ukraine. We have experienced minor inconveniences around food and fuel supply, but many have lost loved ones, property and livelihoods as a result of war. Modern warfare is no less costly or painful for those who are caught up in it. There is a growing sense in which we recognise what is being experienced by people in Ukraine could happen to us.

For Christians the month of November begins with All Saints and ends with the Festival of Christ the King. Jesus is of course also known as the Prince of Peace. True peace can only be found when there is justice, when there is forgiveness and reconciliation and reparation. What preserves peace is love, respect, kindness and service to others. May we follow the example of the saints that have gone before and the supreme example of Christ the King that not only provides us with hope but also a future where we might know true peace and heavenly joy.

The Revd Tony Rindl



Report of Parochial Church Council

The following report summarises some of the matters considered at the Council's meeting of **10th October**.

Finance: The Standing Committee had made further progress in identifying reductions in expenditure. The Council carefully considered how St Mary's finances might be improved and restructured and how that might be achieved in the next couple of months or so. This would enable it to more accurately estimate the anticipated deficit for this year and to be in a better position to make informed decisions about where to reduce expenditure next year.

Buildings: Funding of church floodlights and work on the Church Office, including remedial work on the damp wall, was approved by the Council. Work to the Bell Chamber platform is expected to begin in mid-October but arrangements have been made with the contractors to ensure that the bells are not out of commission on key dates such as Remembrance Sunday.

Climate Emergency: The Climate Action Group had drawn up an Action Plan for raising the profile of climate change and stimulating action within St Mary's. It proposed actions under four headings: teaching and worship; buildings and land; outreach and global engagement; and lifestyle. Some parts had already been actioned, such as the excellent services held on 25 September and 2 October which had focussed on climate/creation. It's likely that St Mary's has met the EcoChurch Bronze Award criteria already and, with a few more improvements, could also qualify for Silver, perhaps as soon as next year. The Climate Emergency 'Toolkit' endorsed by the Church of England proposes that churches should make a public commitment to action on climate change. The Plan contained

wording that might be used for such a statement and Council members were asked to consider the text.

Missions Committee: This is not a formal PCC committee but an informal group of three people - Alison Saunders, Peter Dean and Caroline Jones - who've agreed to oversee support for mission at St. Mary's. They had reviewed the list of missions St Mary's supports, including Mano Emmanuel at Columbo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka; Andrew Leake, working with Compassion International in Argentina; Meninadanca in Brazil providing safe houses for girls; Tear Fund; our patrons, Church Pastoral Aid Society; and New Hope, WTCC and Watford Schools Trust, all of which had current or historic links with St. Mary's.

Vicar's Report: The Vicar explained that Connect Together has been replaced with **CAKE** - Come And Know Everything - from 7.30-8.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. It comprises three parts: the Vicar will inform people about events etc in the coming month; a Connect Group will share what God has been doing among them; and there will be a short time of prayer. Importantly, **cake will be provided!** And it's **for everyone**, whether or not they're in a Connect Group. PCC members had received good feedback about the first meeting on 5 October and had enjoyed the informality of the evening. The Vicar also announced that after a meeting with Sunday School leaders, children would be coming into church at the beginning of the service to be greeted and prayed for before leaving for their activities. He emphasised how important it was that children were seen by the congregation to be a full part of the church. This received enthusiastic support from the Council.

If you wish to send correspondence to the PCC please send it to the PCC Secretary, Marcus Jones (email: ttekcos@aol.com).

Marcus Jones

St Mary's is filled with praise and prayer for Watford



On Tuesday 18th October, over 150 people gathered at St Mary's Church with Christians Across Watford and Mayor Peter Taylor for a Centenary Celebration Service, thanking God for the last 100 years and blessing the future of our town.

People gathered from civic offices, churches, agencies, and neighbourhoods to join their 'amens' and sing praises to God. It was an incredible evening filled with joy for what has been and hope for what is to come.

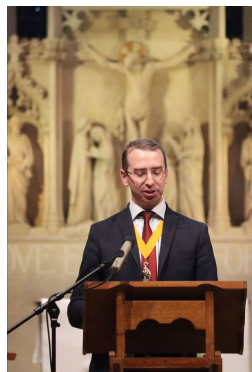


There were prayers from church and agency leaders thanking God for all of Watford's growth and milestones, as well as blessing our town's future; hymns giving Him the glory; and a moving choir

rendition of *The Blessing* led by Andy Smith; a spoken word from local Traysi Matthews; and a message from Mayor Peter Taylor.



We add our 'amen' to Mayor Taylor's closing words, "My hope for Watford's next hundred years is that we do not grow weary or tired, and that Watford is a place rooted and established in love."

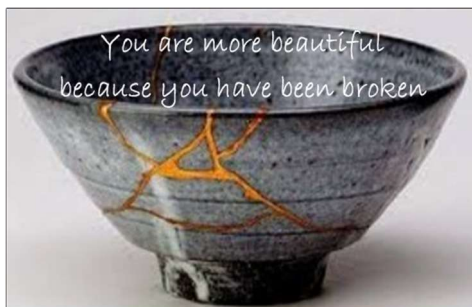


Christians Across Watford would like to thank Mayor Peter Taylor and the Watford Borough Council, St. Mary's Church and volunteers, and all the Christian leaders, artists and singers who led us during the event.

Weren't able to make it? You can find the service livestream on the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkag6pK6ILw>

Words and photos from Christians Across Watford





17th November
24th November
1st December
8th December

Entry to the concerts is **free** but we will be very grateful for donations towards the running expenses and, from time to time, expenses given to young musicians who have travelled some distance to entertain us with their skills ..., so we'd like to encourage you to give as generously as you can ...

Thursday
Lunchtime
Concerts

St Mary's Church
off the High Street, Watford

12.30pm

Advent starts on 27th November: *this 17th century poem describes elaborate preparations if a mediaeval king was on his way; and ends: how would our preparations compare if the King of Heaven was on his way?*

Preparations

Yet if His Majesty, our sovereign lord,
Should of his own accord
Friendly himself invite,
And say, 'I'll be your guest to-morrow night',
How should we stir ourselves, call and command
All hands to work! 'Let no man idle stand!

'Set me fine Spanish tables in the hall;
See they be fitted all;
Let there be room to eat
And order taken that there want no meat.
See every sconce and candlestick made bright,
That without tapers they may give a light.

'Look to the presence: are carpets spread,
The dazie o'er the head,
The cushions in the chairs,
And all the candles lighted on the stairs?
Perfume the chambers, and in any case
Let each man give attendance in his place!'

Thus, if a king were coming, would we do;
And 'twere good reason too;
For 'tis a duteous thing
To show all honour to an earthly king,
And after all our travail and our cost,
So he be pleased, to think no labour lost. >

But at the coming of the King of Heaven
All's set at six and seven;
We wallow in our sin,
Christ cannot find a chamber in the inn,
We entertain Him always like a stranger,
And, as at first, still lodge Him in the manger.

Sometimes attributed to Thomas Ford (1580-1648)

The English Cathedral **Exhibition**

'The English Cathedral' is an ambitious photographic project documenting all forty-two of England's Anglican Cathedrals by the late Magnum photographer, Peter Marlow. These remarkable photographs show the full splendour of the interiors of some of England's most magnificent buildings, using only natural light to capture these iconic landmarks. You can see these beautiful works in St Albans Cathedral during the month of November between 8.30am and 5.30pm from Monday to Saturday or from 1.00pm until 5.30pm on Sunday.



The impetus for Peter Marlow to start photographing cathedrals was the result of a commission from the Royal Mail in 2007 for use on a set of commemorative stamps. Once the commission was complete, however, he was inspired to continue in a similar vein from his own interest. In nearly all cases the photographs were taken just after sunrise.

Photo: St Albans Cathedral, from the Exhibition

Services

The Church is usually open each week

Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.00pm
and on Saturday between 12.00noon and 2.00pm

Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (said) in church
on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday only each month;

10.30am Morning Service in church and via Zoom
every Sunday;

5.30pm Encounter in church
on 4th Sunday of month only
(preceded at 5.00pm with refreshments)

Wednesday

12.30pm Holy Communion in church

(for Zoom links please contact Church Office)

Thought for the Week

on our website and on Facebook - based on a bible verse or passage,
it is a short reflection by one of the leadership team
for you to think about during the week.

It can be downloaded and listened to whenever and wherever.

Please keep up to date with what is on offer
via our Facebook page
or the website www.stmaryswatford.org

Who's Who at St Mary's

Vicar

The Revd Tony Rindl
01923 225189 / 07792 505480
tony.rindl@gmail.com

Churchwarden

Peter Dean
07876 154387
peter.dean@stmaryswatford.org

Facilities Manager

stmarysfacilitiesmanager@gmail.com

Church Office

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