

St Mary's, Watford

St Mary's News

September 2023



Includes

Change – the Revd Tony Rindl

Creation-tide Sunday

Wednesday Fellowship Sailing

... and much more!

Change



Thank you for all your good wishes and very generous gifts as many of you shared in the joy of our wedding day back in July. Following that very special occasion Cath and I, together with her daughters and members of my family travelled to South Africa. Our main objective was to meet members of Cath's family who were unable to come to the wedding. So, we had an extra blessing on the beach with Cath's brothers and their families present.

Almost as important was to see those places where Cath grew up. Indeed, when we visited Fish Hoek (the seaside town just outside Cape Town where Cath grew up) and were looking for the first family home, we were very fortunate that the current owner allowed us to look inside. It is interesting to note what has changed and what hasn't changed over the years. Another important location was Villiersdorp and the farm where Cath lived for a number of years during her childhood. Located inland and not far from Stellenbosch it is another beautiful spot surrounded by mountains. Here, much had changed. The old farmhouse has gone, and other features changed to accommodate a different approach to farming. Indeed, we had difficulty identifying where the farm had been and part of the problem, common to many childhood memories was visualising from an adult's perspective. What had seemed some distance from the town as a child was in reality much closer and had led Cath to first mistaking a farm lying further out from town. After making the necessary adjustments in Cath's mind, she was then able to establish the true identity of the family farm.

Change is an inevitable part of life. For many of us this can feel quite daunting. Often change happens quite naturally, simply a product of growing older. Other changes happen as a result of the choices we make. For example, Cath and I are now adapting to being married. At other times change is forced upon us, and we can all remember the changes we had to make as a result of the pandemic. I still marvel how quickly we were able to adapt and deliver church services online. It was a worrying time, and in many ways, we are still recovering from the traumas of lockdown. The changes that were imposed upon us were, we believe, necessary to reduce infection and save the lives of those most vulnerable.

At the end of the month, and before Harvest, we will as a church be focussing on climate change and how we might respond both as a church and individuals to the overwhelming evidence that the world's climate is changing and that changing weather conditions and global warming is having an adverse effect on many communities around the world. It seems there is significant increase in forest fires, floods, droughts, and often it is the poorest and most vulnerable communities that are most exposed to these risks.

I am very grateful to The St Mary's Climate Emergency Group for their work in researching and recommending ways in which we can respond and make changes in our lives in response to concerns over climate change. Regardless of your personal view on the cause and effect of climate change, the recommendations seem eminently sensible and invariably have additional





benefits eg using the car less and walking or cycling where possible provides for a more healthy lifestyle and less pollution.

Please do come to our special services on 24th September -

details can be found elsewhere in this magazine and learn with us as we seek to make simple but necessary changes in order to adapt to the major influences of climate change which affects all of us. Let us discover together what might be a good Christian response that not only helps in the challenges that lie ahead but draws us closer to our Creator God and enables us to appreciate and marvel at the wonders of creation.

For more information about the Climate Emergency Group contact Andy Roby on andyroby2001@yahoo.com or 07414 832983.

The Revd Tony Rindl



Cath's Ordination as a Priest

Friday 30th June 2023



David's Ordination as a Deacon

Saturday 1st July



Photos – Diocese of St Albans website

Parochial Church Council

The following report summarises some of the matters considered at the Council's meeting of 17th July.

Finance:

The Council approved costs to hire a temporary book-keeper at a very reasonable rate until the end of the year to replace Jacky Faria and to ensure the books remain up-to-date. This will give the Council time to find a more permanent replacement.

The books are being prepared for Myers Clark to independently examine, after which they will be presented to the congregation at a special Parochial General Meeting in the autumn.

The monthly Financial Report showed a deficit to 30th June of £6,725. This was lower than forecast thanks to the receipt of a substantial donation. We are nevertheless still heading for another significant deficit by the end of the year.

The Budget for 2023 was approved by the Council with four abstentions.

Buildings:

The Council approved funding for repainting and regilding the Church's clock faces and is looking into the feasibility of a digital display board to replace the existing board on the external office wall facing the High Street. Costs in both cases will be funded from a legacy. The Council has also approved funding to clean the stains on the floor of the church and to seal the stone.

Lunchtime concerts: A series of ten concerts has been arranged for the autumn. The Council is looking into the possibility of obtaining sponsorship to cover costs. The involvement of Watford Rotary will also increase attendance.

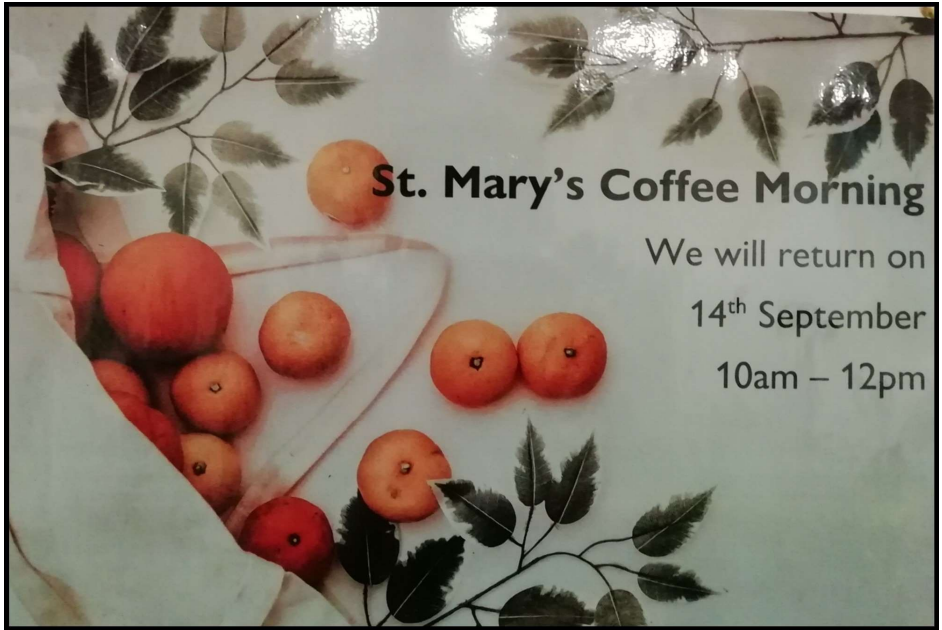
Winter shelter: The Council agreed to a request from New Hope to use the Church Centre as a winter shelter for rough sleepers from 1st December 2023 until 31st March 2024.

Vicar's Report: Among other items, Tony reported Cath da Costa's ordination as priest on 30th June at St Mary's, Hitchin and on David Scourfield's ordination as deacon on 1st July. David is serving as assistant curate at All Saints, Leavesden. Tony said that the Global Lunch had been excellent and thanked Roger and Rosemary Courtney for hosting it and Andy Roby for encouraging people to attend. It had been a truly global lunch with dishes from across the world.

Once approved, full minutes are normally available on the St Mary's website: <https://www.stmaryswatford.org/pcc>

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

Marcus Jones, PCC Secretary



Cath and Tony's Wedding Party



Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy AGM and 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Please join the Chaplaincy as it celebrates *bringing Comfort, Compassion and Christ to the heart of our town* for twenty years, yes, **20 years!**

On 2nd September 2003 the Trust Deed to set up the charity was signed by the new Board of Trustees and the work began.

They will be celebrating on **Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Holy Rood Church, Watford WD18 0PJ**. There will be a short service in Holy Rood Church, followed by refreshments and the AGM.

YOU ARE INVITED!

RSVP to office@watfordtcc.org



Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy
celebrates

20 years

*of bringing Comfort,
Compassion and Christ
to the heart of our town*

You are invited to the
Celebrations
along with the
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26th September 2023 | 7.30pm
Holy Rood Church, Watford WD18 0PJ

WTCC
WATFORD TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAINCY

RSVP: office@watfordtcc.org | 07483 178582

Creation-tide Sunday 24th September 2023

You are invited to join us for Morning Worship at 10.30am on Sunday 24th September which will be based on **God's Creation** as we seek to make simple but necessary changes in order to adapt to the major influences of climate change which affects all of us.

You are then invited to an Evening Encounter on **Climate Change** that same day at 5.30pm (refreshments from 5.00pm). The meeting is open to members of all Churches across Watford.

Guest Speakers include:



Dr Martin and the Revd Margot Hodson – co-authors of *A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues*, amongst many other publications. They combine their extensive knowledge of science and their Christian faith, to deepen understanding of climate change and strengthen action in response to it.

Margot will give an epilogue based on Psalm 24 and Martin will introduce us to climate change and then moderate discussions.



Rachel Johnston, St Albans Diocesan Environment Officer – Rachel is part of a growing team in the Diocese supporting parishes to do their bit to tackle climate change as part of the Church of England's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. She will tell us more about what support is available and what churches can do together to work on climate change in their

communities.

Rachel wants to extend the range of support and resources to enable all parishes to put *Living God's Love* into practice, living with respect for others and caring for the world in which we live. Every church can take steps to reduce its carbon footprint and to care for creation. Every positive action we take will make a difference for those most affected by climate change now and for generations in the future.

There will also be a **panel discussion** including local politicians and activists and an **open debate** on how Christians in Watford can engage in practical action such as the *A Rocha* Ecochurch Scheme and work together more effectively to steward God's world.

Why not join us at one or both services on 24th September?



With grateful thanks



We are very grateful to the Revd Ian Pankhurst and the Revd Deborah Snowball who covered for Sunday and midweek services during the summer months while Tony was away.





Entry to the concerts is free but we will be very grateful for donations towards the running expenses and, from time to time, expenses are given to 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 Concerts resume on 14th September 2023 for a ten-week season

Thursday
Lunchtime
Concerts
St Mary's Church
off the High Street, Watford
12.30pm
refreshments from 12.00noon

Wednesday Fellowship Sailing



On one of the few beautiful sunny days this August, the Wednesday Fellowship group headed off in the church minibus to Rickmansworth Aquadrome to go sailing. The trip was made possible thanks to David and Frances Brown who volunteer with CVSS. This is a charity who make sailing accessible for people with disabilities of all ages.

After kitting everyone out with buoyancy aids, around 14 people headed off to the water. For those who needed it, hoists were available to help some get into the boats. Each person was in their own boat alongside a volunteer to sail the boat. After a peaceful hour, sailing peacefully around the lake in the sunshine the boats came back to shore one at a time for everyone to disembark.



Thanks to Val, the afternoon ended with a wonderful picnic tea sitting by the lake before returning home in the minibus. A fun and memorable afternoon was had by all.

Services

The Church is usually open each week

Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.00pm
and on Saturday between 10.00am 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 the Church Office)

Thought for the Week

on our website - 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, Instagram
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

Churchwardens

Peter Dean
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peter.dean@stmaryswatford.org
Eileen Roby
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eileen.robby@stmaryswatford.org

Facilities Manager

stmarysfacilitiesmanager@gmail.com

Church Office

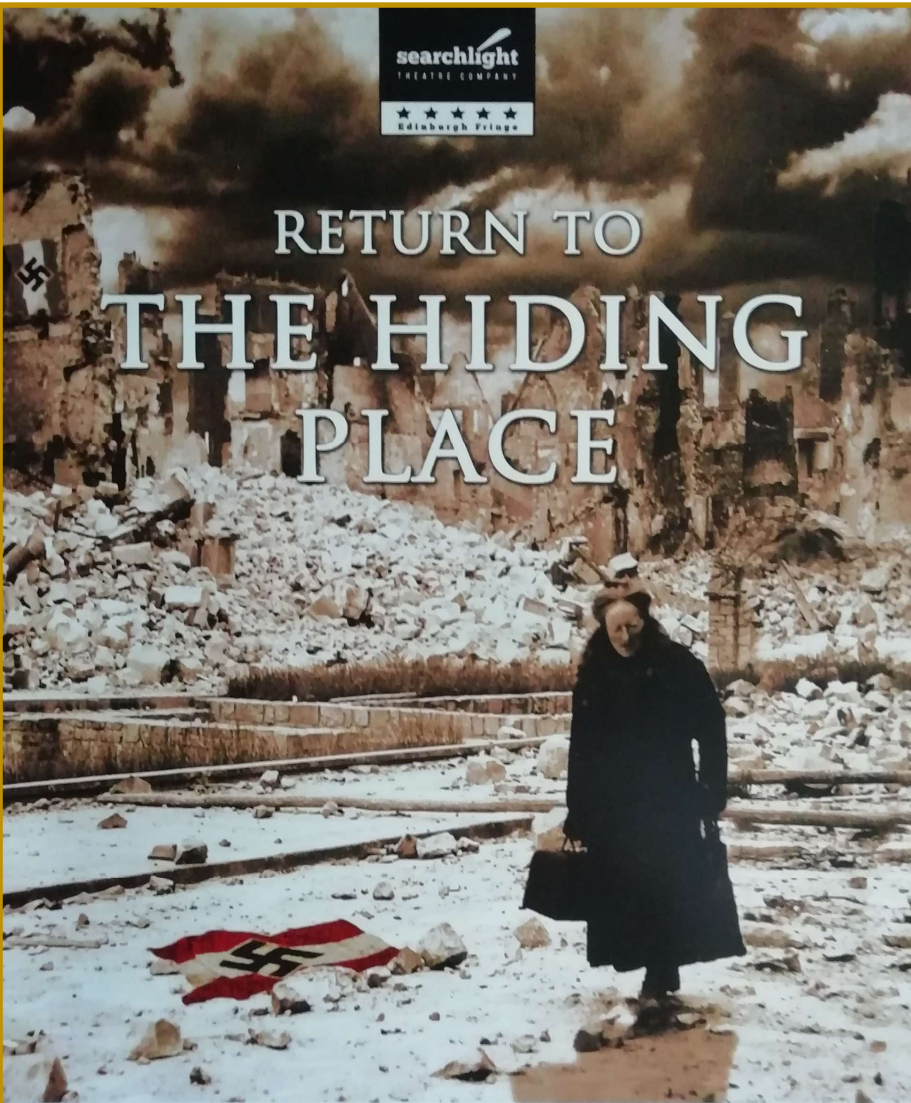
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Watford WD18 0EG
01923 225189

www.stmaryswatford.org

searchlight
THEATRE COMPANY

★★★★★
Edinburgh Fringe

RETURN TO THE HIDING PLACE



AFTER THEIR SELL OUT PERFORMANCE OF C.S. LEWIS' *THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS*, SEARCHLIGHT BRING THEIR ACCLAIMED ADAPTATION OF *THE HIDING PLACE* BY CORRIE TEN BOOM WITH JOHN AND ELIZABETH SHERRILL.

watersmeet

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023
SHOW TIME: 7:30PM TICKETS: £12
WWW.WATERSMEET.CO.UK

