

February 2024

# S<sup>+</sup>Mary's Church Wexham

## Parish News

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

Price 50p

# PARISH DIRECTORY

**Rector:**

Revd Andrew Parry 07972 142 073  
rector@stmaryswexham.co.uk

**Curate**

Revd Tracey Jones (TJ) 07939  
536879  
Rev.funkyfish@gmail.com

**Licensed Lay Minister:**

Mrs J Bell 07812741279  
jillbell123@hotmail.co.uk

**Churchwarden:**

Miss V Clayton  
Mrs S U Edwards

**PCC Treasurer:**

Mr B Edwards 01753527410

**PCC Secretary:** vacant**Parish Magazine** Editorial Team:

Rev'd Chris Collinge  
Mrs Jill Bell  
jillbell123@hotmail.co.uk

**NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES****See Calendar page opposite for details.**

8.00 am—Holy Communion - Common  
Worship Traditional Language (said)  
10.00 am— Holy Communion - Common  
Worship Contemporary Language

**YOUNG CHURCH AND CRECHE:**

10.00 am in the Church Hall  
Leader: Mrs S Horth 01753 551511

**DIRECT GIVING:**

If you would like information on our Direct  
scheme, or Gift Aid, please contact  
Mr B Edwards 01753 527410

**CHURCH FLOWERS:**

For Wedding flowers and arrangements for  
special occasions, please contact Mrs J Boot  
01753 520296

**ORGANISATIONS**

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meets for a meal and  
discussion on the last Thursday in each  
month.

Contact Paul Horth 01753 551511

**BINGO CLUB:** Mondays at 8.00 pm

Contact: Mrs L Shelley 01753 771834

**BROWNIES** Thursdays 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

Leader: Tracey Hassell 07305277569

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:**

Contacts:

Mrs L Shelley 01753 771834

**LOCAL CONTACTS:****WEXHAM COURT PARISH COUNCIL:**

*(Slough, Berks, part of St Mary's Parish)*

**Clerk to the Council** Adil Iftakhar 07803 208  
556

[adil.iftakhar@wexhamcourtparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adil.iftakhar@wexhamcourtparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**WEXHAM PARISH COUNCIL:**

*(Wexham and George Green, Bucks, part of  
St Mary's Parish)*

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Angela Galvin 01753  
644887

**CHURCH WEBSITE**

[www.stmaryswexham.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswexham.co.uk)

**WHAT THREE WORDS.** For those who don't  
know this scheme it provides the Emergency  
Services with your precise location and the  
words to be used for the Church Door are  
**chew.blaze.hunt** and for the Entrance to  
the Church Hall: **/packet.hook.shunts**

*The PCC and the editorial team reserves the right  
to edit and shorten submitted material.*

*Advertisers in the magazine are not necessarily  
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an advert does not carry an implied endorsement.*

St Mary's is an Anglican parish church which seeks to proclaim the Christian faith by sharing the love of Christ with those who enter its buildings and with all who live within the communities of Wexham and George Green.

# CALENDAR FEBRUARY

Tea and coffee are served after the 10 am service in the church hall You can sign up for the Mailchimp on our website [www.stmaryswexham.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswexham.co.uk) and then you will get notifications of the services and details of any alterations to our programme

## **4th February Second Sunday Before Lent**

8.00 am Communion by  
Extension service in Church  
10.00 am Communion by Extension service in Church  
10.00 am Young Church in hall.

## **11th February Sunday next before Lent**

8.00 am Holy Communion service in Church  
10.00 am Church for All

## **14th February Ash Wednesday**

10.30 am Home Communions at The Pines  
6.00 pm Ash Wednesday Service in Church



## **18th February First Sunday of Lent**

8.00 am Holy Communion Service in Church  
10.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Young Church

## **24th February Saturday**

10.30 am The Community Hub for all ages to meet chat and have refreshments



## **25th February Second Sunday of Lent**

8.00 am Holy Communion service in Church  
10.00 am Holy Communion service in Church  
10.00 am Young Church  
10.30 am Wholeness and Healing Service in Church.

## **28th February Wednesday**

10.30 am Morning Praise Service at the Pines for residents  
pm Home Communions

## **29th February Thursday**

10.30 am Service at Oak House for residents

# RECTOR'S RAMBLES



## A Borrowed Wedding Dress?

We recently asked people to write a list of resolutions for 2024 and put them in a sealed envelope. We've collected these and will return them on 14 July - after 6 months, so people can see how they have progressed.

The mindset of self improvement and progression has become very popular in the modern world and it is really beneficial in many cases. But - naturally - that mindset often transfers to our standing with God. We want to feel that we can improve ourselves. We convince ourselves that we are good people - better than most perhaps. That God will respect our efforts. Many detest the thought that we cannot work our way to God's favour.

The bad news is that we can never earn the favour of God.

The good news is that we do not have to. All we have to do is to accept that we cannot earn God's favour, and then accept His love.

There is a very moving image of this in the book of Revelation. The image is of God and His bride (the church). We are told that the bride wears "fine linen, bright and pure".

What is this fine linen? Revelation goes on to say that "the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints."

The bride is not the bride because of the dress (the "righteous deeds"). The bride is the bride because of the love of the groom.

More mysteriously, even these righteous deeds are not wholly ours, but the result of God working in us, and washing us in His blood.

I imagine that raises all sorts of objections in your mind. I certainly hope so.

Andrew Parry

February 2024





### **4th February**



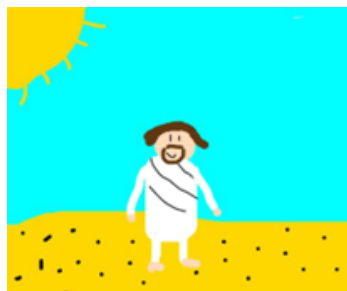
Today we will think: is Christmas really over? We will make a Bell collage and do a light craft.

### **11th February**

This Sunday is our monthly Church for All service in the hall. The theme is Love, There will be hymns and activities. Refreshments will be served from 9.30. Come and join us for a fun morning all together.



### **18th February**



Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is when we prepare for Easter. We will hear about Jesus being baptised and then going into the desert on his own. We will do some hand painting and a pie plate craft. Starting today, until Easter, each week we will be helping to prepare a special screen story picture for the hall.

### **25th February**

This Sunday we will hear about Jesus coming to love and care for us. The story will include marbles and a game using them. We will do a scratch cross and some baking.



Sandra Horth

# PUZZLE FROM DAVID MACISAAC

## ANSWERS TO DECEMBER QUIZ

1. Santa Claus coat is green and still used in Finland. It was Co-Cola who changed it to red.
2. Sap resin from trees like the beechwood. It was used as perfume, incense and healing wounds and burns. It was appropriate as a gift by acknowledging Jesus as a great healer.
3. Traditionally a lump of coal for the fire and you must be offered a drink preferably whiskey.
4. Cupid
5. It represents fertility in Druid religion and if you allowed a man to kiss you under it you are agreeing to have his babies so be careful who you kiss!
6. The White Heather Club presented by Andy Stewart.
7. For the Roman census which said you had to be recorded for the place of fathers birth. It is also said that it was to fulfil the prophecy of his lowly birth.
8. Grace Kelly who became Princess Grace of Monaco The film was Holiday Inn.
9. It means God be with you.
10. At the last supper there were 13 people and one was Judas who betrayed him so since then associated with bad luck ever since.

## BIBLE QUESTION

Ruth was widowed but married Boaz so the lineage of the family of Jewish faith was saved when she gave birth to Obed who in turn gave birth to David otherwise the lineage would have died out with her. It is one of the shortest books in the Bible

## FEBRUARY PUZZLES

1. Find a word that can fit between the following so that it makes a word that finish one and starts another

THERE. CAST

PEANUT. FLY

THIRD. WITNESS

2. What is the only word in the dictionary that reads the same upside down as forwards?

3. Unscramble the Anagrams to find different book genres

GRY PHOBIA

CURE TIMER

SASS CLIC

ICE CONFINES TIC

4. What colour do bananas appear under black lights. Yellow Blue or Green?

BIBLE QUESTION What is the only Gospel to mention the Magi?

## **WHOLENESS & HEALING ... WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

Have you ever wondered about the service we have monthly on the last Sunday of the month? It's been nearly a year since we introduced this rather special and slightly unusual addition to our Sunday mornings. Here are some of the things people have said or asked ... and our response.

**Do you have to go to the 10:00 service first? (I might not have the energy for both)**

No, Some people like to go to a communion service first but others come in time for 11:30. It's a short service (about 40 minutes) but there is time at the end if you'd like to stay to speak or pray with one of the team.

**Sometimes I feel awkward because I don't know anyone, should I bring a friend?**

Everyone is made very welcome, whether or not they know anyone. Of course, it's lovely to have a friend with you but if you come on your own we hope you will still feel comfortable with us. There will be someone by the door to help if you need anything.

**Isn't it just for people who are seriously ill and really need a miracle, to be healed?**

No. While it's true, some are very poorly physically, others just feel out-of-sorts and want to come and have a time of personal prayer. We hope people will come because they want all areas of their life to be whole and healed. Whatever the problem or need, God can and does heal. Sometimes God gives peace but complete healing takes longer.

**I've heard there may be "anointing" – What does that involve?**

During a time of quiet reflection. Each person may come up when they're ready. There's no set order. Two people will pray for you and then the priest will place some oil on your forehead. Part of the prayer is that you will "Receive Christ's forgiveness, his healing and his love."

**I'm not a member of the church ... Is it just for them?**

Actually, the opposite could be said. This is a service which is easy for those who don't normally come to church, to feel they can be part of. The words that we use are on just one piece of paper and there is plenty of time for silent reflection. Mostly, we stay seated (even during any hymns) and the quiet music is probably best to simply be listened to as people go forward for prayer (IF they choose).

**My hearing's not great and I'm not sure I'd be able to hear a "quiet" service.**

The good news is that we have a 'hearing loop' and use the microphones. The other good news is that none of us need to hear everything that goes on.

"Personal prayer" is just that. Just between you and God and those who are praying for you. One person said it's nice to just hear the murmur of prayer going on when songs/music playing, without hearing the words.

**My [relative/friend] is not well enough to come? How can they be included?**

Some people come because they're unwell. Some come with a friend who's sick. Others come because they would like to receive prayer AND they are praying for someone who can't come for whatever reason. If this is the case for you, just write their name on a piece of paper and when you come forward, give it to the minister at the front and they will include that person as they pray for you.

Revd TJ

# WANT SOMEONE TO TALK TO? WE HAVE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES.

**Every Monday evening.**

**Friends of St Mary's hosts Bingo** in the Church Hall 7.30 for 8pm prompt start.

It's a great way to meet people and have a social get together and a warm welcome is guaranteed



**Every Tuesday 10.30 to 12 midday Bible Study Home Group**

New members are always welcome . For further details contact Jill on 07812741279.



**Saturday 17th February** from 2pm—3.30pm

**George Green Social Library** at Harvey Memorial

Hall George Green Road SL3 6BJ. Come along to browse the books, magazines, jigsaws, DVDs and have a chat whilst enjoying tea/coffee and maybe home made cake.



**Community Hub Saturday 24th February**

Join us in the Church Hall for a good chat and delicious re-

freshments. 10.30 to 12.30. All welcome



**Churchyard Care**

Date for the diary **Saturday 2nd March** . As usual we will be meeting up

**between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00** so if you fancy a bit of exercise with your chat this is the event for you. **Free refreshments are provided.**

You don't need any gardening experience and you won't need to bring tools, as we have them. **All we ask, please, is that you wear gloves and stout boots or shoes.** Why not come along and see if you enjoy the exercise as much as we do? **We do hope you can join us.**



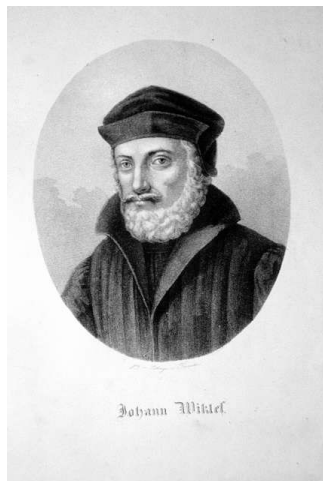


# EARLY CHURCH LIFE CONTINUED...

In last month's article about the Early Church in England, we read about the changes in Church life over the years to the end of the 15th Century.

At Wexham, some were structural with the introduction of seating and changes to doors and windows, but other changes, lately introduced from Europe, questioned basic beliefs and scriptural understanding.

John Wycliffe, although a Catholic priest and scholar, openly criticised the corruption and heresy that he thought existed in the Church.



Wycliffe believed that the Bible, not the church, was the supreme source of religious authority. He produced the first complete translation of the Bible in English in 1382. He was convicted as a heretic. But he was among the first of many who questioned the role and the authority of the Roman Church in society. "Protests" or Protestantism had begun.

Then, in 1502, something happened that would change world history, and change the life of

Wexham church in the future! Prince Arthur, heir to King Henry VII died of a fever, aged 15 years old. Only 20 weeks before, he has married the 15 year old Princess Catherine of Aragon, Spain.

Arthur's brother, Henry, who was 10 years old, became the heir to the English throne.

In 1509, Henry was crowned King Henry VIII, and married Catherine, his brother's widow. Henry was very religious, athletic, versed in languages, poetry and music.



When, in 1517, Martin Luther, in Germany, published his "95 Theses" attacking the Roman Catholic Church, especially regarding the sale of indulgences, Henry wrote a long dissertation defending the Church. As a reward, Pope Leo X granted him the title of "Defender of the Faith". Even today, our coins show "F.D." on them, after the King (or Queen's) name.

So, what changed the zealous Roman Catholic King, away from his faith towards Protestantism? The King wanted a male heir to continue the royal Tudor line.

In this pursuit he would divorce two wives, execute another two, and one would die in childbirth. It is generally known how Henry divorced Catherine, citing from scriptures Leviticus 20 verse 21: "If a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing...they shall be childless". The conflict over the divorce, together with Henry's own belief in his divine right to rule England, and the encouragement of supporters of the new Protestant beliefs, brought about the separation from the Roman Catholic Church and the founding of The Church of England. As Head of the English Church, Henry could do what he wanted.

*(Editor's note. Did you know Catherine got Langley Park and the then mansion house as part of her divorce Settlement?)*

England began the 16th century as a Roman Catholic nation. Roman Catholicism taught that contrite persons could cooperate with God towards their salvation by performing good works. In the Mass, a priest consecrated bread and wine to become the body and blood of Christ through transubstantiation.

The Mass was also an offering of prayer by which the living could help souls in purgatory. While penance removed the guilt attached to sin, Catholicism taught that a penalty still remained. It was believed that most people would end their lives with these penalties unsatisfied and

would have to spend time in purgatory. Time in purgatory could be lessened through indulgences and prayers for the dead, which were made possible by the communion of saints.



The Protestant Reformation was initiated by the German monk Martin Luther.



By the early 1520s, Luther's views were known and disputed in England. The main plank of Luther's theology was justification by faith alone rather

than by good works. In this view, God's unmerited favour is the only way for humans to be justified—it cannot be achieved or earned by righteous living. In other words, justification is a gift from God received through faith. [Romans 3 vs21-26].

Revd Gordon

# LET'S PARTY

One of the charities we support, Embrace the Middle East, is 170 years old this year so we thought we would have a birthday party.

Embrace started life in 1854 when Britain was at war with Russia in the Crimea. It was founded by a young Anglican clergyman, Cuthbert Young, to support the Armenian evangelical Christian Community in Turkey. Over the years it has grown to support Christian groups in Egypt, Lebanon (where Chris and I saw the support for Armenian communities) Syria Iraq and Israel/Palestine.

Right from the beginning the charity took the decision not to send missionaries like the other charities but to fund local Christians and support their work and it still does so today.

The news we see on our media from the Middle East is dreadful but amongst all the pain and suffering, there are small signs of hope from the 50 Christian partner organisations it currently supports.



We thought a birthday party would be a good way to celebrate the work of Embrace and you are all invited. The ticket price is £8 for adults £4 for children and we will have a birthday tea, cake of course and lots of games. There will be an exhibition featuring the current work of Embrace and story time plus community singing.

All proceeds from the event will go to Embrace. Tickets are limited so book yours early. You can do so on the list in church or by contacting Jill Bell on 07812741279 or by e mailing [jillbell123@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jillbell123@hotmail.co.uk). If you want any further information speak to Chris Collinge or Jill Bell.

The party starts at 4pm on Saturday 16th March.

Jill Bell



# Big Thank Yous

## SHOC CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Appeal. The people at SHOC were very appreciative of the 43 Christmas gift parcels we were able to make up from your donations.



We were also able to take a good selection of biscuits and sweets to the Foodbank in January.

Also in January we had a great evening when the Friends of St Mary's notably Lynnette and Clare organised a Quiz evening. The hall was packed, everyone seemed to be having a good time and it raised a massive £919 for the fabric of the church. Well done. Claire is about to move and we wish her well. She will be sorely missed.

A vertical advertisement for 'THE PET STORE' with a red border. At the top, there's a row of various pets: a dog, a bird, a rabbit, a cat, a chicken, a hamster, and a guinea pig. Below them is the text 'THE PET STORE' and 'Your local pet supply store'. A central grey circle contains the text 'Under New Management'. The ad lists the types of animals they supply: Dogs, Cats, Birds, Rabbits, Fish, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Horses, Foxes, Ducks, Swans, Badgers, chickens and many more. It provides contact information: Call us: 01753648745 / 0792755681, Email us: thepetstore.enquiries@gmail.com. It also includes social media links for Instagram (@thepetstoreuk) and Facebook (@Berkshirepetsupplies). The address is Pinewood Nurseries, Wexham Street, Stoke Poges, Slough, SL3 6NB. The opening hours are Mon - Sat: 9am - 5pm, Sun: 10am - 4pm.

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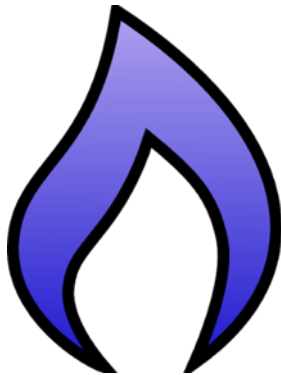
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