



A warm welcome to  
**St. Mary's Uttoxeter & The Heath  
 Mission Church**  
 Part of the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes

**February 2020 NEWS AND NOTICES**

Whether you worship here often or not, we hope you find God's love  
 throughout your time with us.

**www.uttoxetercofe.org for all our weekly events and more.**

**WHAT'S ON.....**

**February**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Candlemas	Session 5 of the Bible Course Session 4 of the Bible Course	9.30am service 6pm service
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Session 6 of the Bible Course Session 5 of the Bible Course	9.30am service. 6pm service
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's 1 <sup>st</sup> School in Church Bell-ringers' AGM	9.30am all welcome 7pm
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Session 7 of the Bible Course Baptism of Evelyn Session 6 of the Bible Course	9.30am service 11.30am 6pm service with communion
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Uttoxeter Filling Station – "How to read the Bible for all its worth" with Simon Edwards 20:20 prayer for the country and for spiritual growth	7.30 – 9.30pm @ Stramshall Village Hall, ST14 5DL Pray for 20 minutes at 20:20, or 8.20pm – see below
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Session 8 of the Bible Course CAMEO Shrovetide lunch – pancakes and a quiz! Prayers and Pub Discussion	9.30am service 12.30pm – sign-up via clip- boards. 6pm in church, 6.45 at "The Horse and Dove"
Ash Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Area Service of Ashing	7.30pm @ St. Lawrence's Church Bramshall
<b>Regular events</b>	<u>We are always delighted to see you</u>	<u>new friends and old!</u>
Tuesdays	Toddler Group 9am to 11am	Term-time only
Wednesdays	Communion at 10.30am plus	Café 10am to 1pm weekly
Thursdays	Places of Welcome 10am to 12noon	Term-time only

Forthcoming funerals will be announced during church services.

Clergy - Rev Margaret Sherwin [mjsherwin@btinternet.com](mailto:mjsherwin@btinternet.com) 560234 / 07541993969

Rev Chris Brown [revchrishbrown@icloud.com](mailto:revchrishbrown@icloud.com) 567492

Rev Charles Dale [revcharles.dale@btinternet.com](mailto:revcharles.dale@btinternet.com) 500428 / 07720 709088

## News

**The Social and Fund-raising Committee** have met and are making plans for some new social and fund-raising ideas. The details of our **Shrovetide Pancakes Lunch and Quiz** are on the calendar, a list for numbers would be great but it's pancakes on the menu – savoury and sweet. Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12.30pm.

And we're planning a **CAMEO Lent Lunch on Palm Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>**, with soup, bread and cake too. Anyone able to join the "rota" for these Cameo lunches, please let Lesley or Hayley know.

Our key event will be **The Rector's Midsummer Ball on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Town Hall. It will be a fund-raiser, it will be smart, there will be food and music and dancing – but Margaret needs a working party to organise it, please. Meet at the Rectory on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm, but let her know!

We have booked a **Summer Fair, Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ for Saturday afternoon July 11<sup>th</sup>** to coincide with a planned Scarecrow Festival – details in due course!

**Eco-Church Award**; Did you walk or cycle to church today? Have you checked the yellow re-cycle / re-use list on the noticeboard? What Fairtrade product are you using regularly at home now? Well done if you have handed on a newsletter to another reader, after you've read it and noted dates and prayers!

**St Mary's 1<sup>st</sup> School** is our church school, it is growing and has nearly 200 pupils. Its Christian vision based around the parable of the Good Samaritan is embedded into the whole school day and the SIAMS (church school inspection) praised the teaching of RE. And it has been led superbly by Mrs Sue Wade for the last 6 years. But she has decided to step away from school and will be retiring to Somerset in August. Please pray for the process of change, for the Governors in the challenge and privilege of recruitment, and the staff and children as they adjust.

**Church Finances**; Do you know how much it costs to keep our church warm, lit, safe and clean per week? Do you know how much our parish share is? It pays for the training, licencing, living and administrating of our leaders (paid or not).

Do you know how much it costs to keep your home warm, lit, safe and clean? And to keep you insured, driving, fed and watered?

How much can you give to keep God's house, the church, open?

If you want to know more about regular giving, one-off gifts, gift-aid, or making a legacy in your will to our church, ask Mandy or Margaret.

**PCC minutes** from the most recently approved meeting are available to read on the noticeboard.

This page of the monthly sheet is available for news and mini-articles from church members.

## Area Prayers for February 2020 – St Peter’s Marchington.

Please use these prayers as often as possible during each week of this month, to support each other in new beginnings.

“Almighty God thank you for all of your great mercy, for your unfailing love.

We ask you to bless those who work tirelessly for the church in Marchington, especially our PCC and Ministry team. Help us all to be gracious to all who we meet as we do your work on earth.

We ask for your blessing on all who are ill and lonely. Help us to help them showing them that they are not alone, that you love them and walk with them especially at their most desperate times.

We pray that someone will hear your calling and join our team of churches as our new vicar soon. Nurture your people and in doing so grow our congregations.

We ask for your blessings in all that we do.”

### ENCOURAGE AND PRAY FOR.....

- ✠ **A new Team Vicar for the “Marchington” villages** – pray for a great candidate to apply, who is visionary, resilient and strong. Pray too for the wardens and leaders of our village churches, as they cope with no vicar, and for our amazing “clergy” team who are still keeping the full rota of Area church services going (We’ve not had 3 active stipends (paid) since March 2019, it’s been a long time).
- ✠ **The impact of Brexit as it becomes real** – for those who negotiate, for those who are anxious, for those who are excited and for the rest who are bewildered.
- ✠ **Everyone who is grieving** including the families & friends of Teresa Phillips, and Norman Bailey – details of his funeral will be announced (tbc 14/02/20).
- ✠ **Ourselves**, as we read the Bible in a new way, as we prepare for Lent, as we get to know the new faces around our church and as our newer leaders settle into their roles.
- ✠ **The PCC** in all the challenging decisions they must make to maintain our building, grow our bank balance, and our church family. Pray for Alison, Lucy, Dianne, Mandy, Jane, Margaret, Chris, Charles, Allan, Graeme, Peter and Diane.

Prayer



Thursday 20th February 2020

Lord Jesus, thank you for your amazing love. We pray for every evangelist sharing your good news of eternal life. May they be given humility, grace and boldness to clearly invite all they meet to believe in and follow you (John 5:24).

## **A letter from Rev. John Lander St Lawrence's Bramshall, one of the Area Staff.**

I don't know how many of you remember the dairy in Uttoxeter; after all it did close 35 years ago, but it was as a fresh-faced school leaver that I started my working career there in 1973. Amongst all the other memories I have of being a lab assistant (investigating the properties of milk) I clearly remember being invited to join the company pension scheme pretty much as soon as I had crossed the threshold. Well, of course, I agreed and when I saw that my then retirement date would be 2020 it seemed to be something out of science fiction, it was so far into the future that it would never come. For me 2020 was the year that would never happen! But it has, it is already here and under way.

The trouble now is that, if I'm not careful, I will keep thinking back to those earlier times with that wonderful gift 'nostalgia'; a gift that allows us to look back with fondness and a desire to return to all those great times we experienced and how we felt as younger people. When life was simpler, less complicated, all together happier, and we wish it were so today. That's how it can seem, but life was just as complex, full of ups and downs, every bit as challenging (albeit different challenges) and always social & moral issues to navigate.

Yes, we can learn from the past but we cannot live in it, neither can we expect time to stand still. Look how quickly Christmas had all but disappeared by the 27<sup>th</sup> of December. And it's not only in our secular lives that we are confronted by these emotions, which do influence our views on life today, but also within the context of our faith and its expression in our lives and within church.

Within this Uttoxeter Area, we celebrate our differences and similarities, our strengths and opportunities, the contexts in which we each minister and, hopefully, support one another through challenging times and change. Having recently completed the 'Statistics for Mission' I realise how easy it would be to become puzzled or even cynical as to why there is a need for such information; yet there is one section that looks at mission in local context and, for me, that brought into sharp focus what much of our calling is about.

When I left school I had a sense of one stage of my life finishing with the rest full of excitement and hope – maybe because schooling had helped to prepare me. As we approach the season of Lent, perhaps we could use this as a time of preparation, of seeking forgiveness for the accrued cynicisms and bitterness acquired over the years, and of letting go all those nostalgic things which are not helpful in forwarding mission.

May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen our unity, and open our hearts and minds to the possibilities God has for this Area.

*John*

Sheet compiled by Lesley White, notices, thoughts, prompts and ideas all welcome.  
[uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com](mailto:uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com) or [lesleyandandy.white@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyandandy.white@gmail.com)

To add articles/notices to the website, please email  
Neil Langford [webmaster.uttoxetercofe@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.uttoxetercofe@gmail.com)

Office hours 9.30am to 12.00pm Mon – Thurs 01889 562915

St Mary's admin [office.uttoxetercofe@gmail.com](mailto:office.uttoxetercofe@gmail.com)



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