



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

March 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 ALSO ON DURING MARCH.....

Sunday 1 st	Speaker from Christian Solidarity at two of our services	9.30am service 6pm service
Friday 6 th	World Day of Prayer 2020 – Praying with Zimbabwe	2pm or 7.30pm at Uttoxeter Roman Catholic Church or 7pm at St Lawrence's Bramshall.
Saturday 7 th	FairTrade Fortnight Coffee Morning	10am – 12noon @ Quaker Mtg House, 39 Carter Street.
Sunday 8 th	Bible Course Session 7	6pm service
Tuesday 10 th	"Chuffers in Church" - Austrian Railways / Railways near Buxton	7.30pm in the church.
Sunday 15 th	Baptism of Thomas Bible Course Session 8	11.30am 6pm service
Thursday 19 th	Uttoxeter Filling Station – "How to be filled with the Holy Spirit" with Joy Leathers 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
Friday 20 th	20:20 prayer for Spiritual Growth in our communities	Pray for 20 minutes at 20:20, or 8.20pm – see below
Sunday 22 nd	Mothering Sunday Prayers and Pub Discussion	9.30am service 6pm in church, 6.45 at "The Horse and Dove"
Saturday 28 th	Marchington Singers' Spring Concert	7.30pm @ St Lawrence's Bramshall, tickets £8.
Regular events	We are always delighted to see	new friends and old!
Tuesdays	Toddler Group 9am - 11am	Term-time only
Wednesdays	Communion at 10.30am plus	Café 10am to 1pm weekly
Thursdays	Places of Welcome 10am - 12pm	Term-time only

(Forthcoming funerals will be announced during church services.)

Clergy - Rev Margaret Sherwin mjsherwin@btinternet.com 560234 / 07541993969
 Rev Chris Brown revchrishbrown@aol.com 567492
 Rev Charles Dale revcharles.dale@btinternet.com 500428 / 07720 709088

Home Groups are a chance to discuss a Bible passage together informally and enable us to grow as Christians. A group meets at Sally's, Cynthia F's, Mo's and Lucy's homes, on Monday afternoons or evenings, Tuesday afternoons, and Thursday evenings. Contact Lucy T to find out more – she's often at the 9.30 and 6pm services, or ring her on 07876 077898.

News and Views.....

What have you decided to “do” in Lent? To **fast**, to **pray** or to **serve generously**? Maybe you have given up chocolate/cake/alcohol/sugar, any of which are **fasting** to some degree. You could put the money you are saving in a “Jar of Change” for WaterAid www.wateraid.org/uk You could use a Lent book to help you **pray** every day of Lent, beyond your usual prayer routine. You could **serve generously**, being prompted by emails from www.40acts.org.uk to do something generous every day that goes above and beyond your usual pattern of service. (Smiling at strangers is harder than you think, costs nothing, but is truly generous and uplifting for them.)

Lent Lunches – are a chance to share fellowship over a bowl of homemade soup, bread and cheese, every Friday of Lent (Mar 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and Apr 3rd) at the **United Reformed Church, Carter Street** 12noon – 1.30pm. All very welcome. £2.50 and all profits will also be going to WaterAid.

Lent Groups – see the bright yellow leaflets and poster from Churches Together if you'd like to join a Bible study group meeting weekly through Lent – daytime or evening options.

Dates from the diary (online via Jane L please, not just the hardback diary);

- **CAMEO Lent Lunch on Palm Sunday April 5th**, with soup, bread and cake too.
- **The Rector's Midsummer Ball on Saturday June 20th** at the Town Hall.
- **Summer Fair, Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ for Saturday afternoon onwards, on July 11th** to coincide with a planned Scarecrow Festival.

Church Finances; The PCC wish to give a proportion of the planned giving (coloured envelopes and direct bank deposits) to charity. If you have a charity you wish to be considered to receive a donation, please pass the information to Dianne H. or Mandy F. 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.

Reminder that “**The Bible Course**” books cost £5 each. Donations appreciated.

PCC - It is time to organise ourselves for the **APCM**, which is on Wednesday April 29th. If you are part of a group could you please find a willing member of the group to submit a short report to Dianne H, secretary? If anyone would be interested in joining the PCC, please have a word with Margaret or any member of the PCC.

The PCC meets again on **Wednesday March 11th at 7.30pm** in the Elkes Room.

Eco-Church Award; We've got the Bronze Award! See the notice on the yellow poster at the back which explains how and what's next!

Area Prayers of Intercession for March 2020 are for ourselves, St Mary's and The Heath, Uttoxeter.

1st March 1st of Lent

Dear God we pray for Keith Davies from Christian Solidarity Worldwide who is coming to preach at St Mary's today. We pray for those around our world who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ, especially for those in the Latin America Team. We give thanks for the freedom we have to worship when, where and how we want to. We thank you for the church of St Mary, Uttoxeter and The Heath Mission Church in their ministry and witness. Lord in your mercy...

8th March 2nd of Lent

Dear God we pray for the PCC of St Mary's who will meet on Wednesday. We continue to pray for the financial position of the church and especially for Mandy our PCC Treasurer. We give thanks for those who give to our church in many different ways: financially, time, talents, prayer. We pray for those who help in the social and fundraising activities, and those who offer hospitality. We pray for our PCC Secretary Dianne, and for our churchwardens Graeme and Jane. Lord in your mercy....

15th 3rd of Lent

Dear God we pray for the life of St Mary's church. For the Staff Team at St Mary's particularly for Margaret, Lucy, Charles, Chris as they preach and teach your word and lead our worship. We give thanks for all those who worship here, for those who come to the CofE Café, for those who work here. We are a family, individuals united by a common bond of love for you and a desire to seek out your will. In our life together fill us afresh that we might be united in your love, held in your grace and empowered by your Spirit. Lord in your mercy....

22nd March Mothering Sunday

Dear God on this special day we give you thanks for the Church, which has been here for us from our childhood up. Thank you for the good things in the Church which have nourished us and helped us to grow – the love, the extended family, the holy food of Communion. We pray for those who have 'mothered' us in our faith – giving thanks especially for them today. We pray for those who are no longer able to worship with us due to personal circumstances and especially those who live in nursing and care homes. Lord in your mercy...

29th March 5th Sunday of Lent

Dear God we pray for all those groups who use the building of St Mary's and The Heath churches. We pray for our Toddler Group and for the fruitful relationships that are being formed. For our local nurseries and schools who come to worship either in St Marys or at The Heath. For Chuffers in Church and the WI who give space for coming together. For all those who feel connected to you through the ministry of our church. Lord in your mercy...



Friday 20th March 2020

Abba Father, thank you for gift of the Bible, your living word to us today. Give us the confidence to give your word to those who don't yet know you so they can hear you speaking to them. Help us to read it with them and help them to know you for themselves

(John 6:35).

A letter from Maggie Hatchard, one of the Area Staff.

As I write this letter the sun is shining! What joy! It makes a change from the seemingly constant rain we've had in the past weeks. The daffodils in my garden will soon blossom and there is a real sense of new life and renewal. We are so lucky living in this country where we get four distinct seasons and we can watch the year move forward with each season bringing an anticipation of something different and fresh.

Yet we are as a country living in a time when we don't know what might happen in the future. As I write this letter, we had just left the European Union and we are now on our own. What to expect? Who knows? We just have to wait and see and hope that our politicians will plan carefully and make the right decisions for us all. Can we anticipate that whatever happens will be different and fresh?

Jesus came to turn the tables on what people expected – he brought something different and fresh. He brought in a new age. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, a new creation has come: the old has gone the new is here". There it is! Right on the pages of the Bible in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we are told that we are being made new. We can choose to believe it and walk in that truth, or we can deny the power of God and His power to change even the deadest of hearts into hearts softened with love. He is making all things new.

"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind" (Isaiah 65:17). Sometimes we just need to let go of the past and embrace the new season. Just like God does.

Jesus asks us to look forward not back, shouldn't we do that? Take each season, each day as something new to look forward to, with anticipation. We don't know what might be just around the corner but as Christians we believe – we know that God is with us no matter what life throws at us. He will be – he is there – beside us in all that we do so that we can go forward into a new day – a new season with hope and anticipation.

God bless

Maggie Hatchard Licensed Lay Reader

Sheet compiled by Lesley White. Notices, thoughts, prompts and ideas all welcome via a note, chat or uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com or lesleyandandy.white@gmail.com

To add articles/notices to the website, please email Neil Langford
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