St. Mary's Church, Mildenhall
'Jesus Christ is Lord.
We seek to share His love and care.'

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

John 3:16 (niv)



April 2023

Services in April

Sunday 2th Palm Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion with prayers for healing *Bible Reading John 12:12-16* 4.00pm Fun and Faith



Thursday 6th Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion Bible Reading John 13:1-17, 31b-33

Friday 7^t Good Friday

2.00pm a service of reflection *Bible Reading 7 saying from the cross*

Sunday 9th Easter Sunday

11.00am All Age Holy Communion *Bible Reading John 20:1-9, 10-18* 2.15pm Mildenhall Lodge

Sunday16th Second Sunday of Easter

11.00am Morning Worship with Easter Praise Bible Reading Psalm 16; John 20:19-end

Sunday 23rdThird Sunday of Easter

11.00am Holy Communion Bible Reading John 21:1`-14, 25

Sunday 30th Fourth Sunday of Easter

11.00am Holy Communion with Celtic Style prayers *Bible Reading John 10:1-10*

A Note from Sue

A note from Sue

Easter is all about God's love- because of love God gave His Son. Because He gave His Son, Jesus could one day give His life. And because Jesus gave His life, three days later He would rise again, winning victory over death, sin and the Devil. God's love saving the world.



As Lent draws to a close, let's take time to walk with Jesus through the last week of His life- please come to services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, to watch and pray. Then to join together in worship on Easter Sunday to celebrate that Jesus is alive.

We may eat Easter eggs, give cards, have special food and time with family and friends. -But especially may we be grateful and glad for God's love.

April showers will be bringing refreshment to the soil. I pray that the wonder of God's love and purposes will bring refreshment and new life to our hearts:

"O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:

Look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence,

carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation;

let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through

whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen." — Book of Common Prayer

Happy Easter and God's blessings, Sue

Sue



Churches Together Mildenhall prayer time King's Church Saturday 1st April Mildenhall Methodist Church 6th May

9.00-9.45AM_Prayer for the Local Community.

Please come to join in, everybody is welcome. We want to actually show that we do place an importance on praying with other Christians from the town. Please come along for this short time of prayer. As in 1 Timothy 2, 1-4 (NIV)

"Paul writes 'I urge, then, first of all that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

The first Friday in April is Good Friday Walk of



Witness, Churches together 10.30am at the Jubilee Fields approx. 10.45am in the precinct and 11.00am at St Mary's Churchyard. Time at each place to listen to bible readings, sing and pray. In the event of bad weather all will take place at

St Mary's Church. There is also a Service of Reflection at

2.00pm in St Mary's church



BIBLE BOOK TIME

Is back Wednesdays 4.15pm after 4.00pm prayers from 26th April. Please come along for this informal time to. chat, learn and spend time

together looking at the Bible. Our next big read is Daniel so if you want to know more, come a long and find out.

WAYS OF GIVING

NEW IN

All that's needed is a tap with a bank card - just like shopping.

This really helps- as while we appreciate all donations- it takes time to make arrangements for cash to be counted by two people- paperwork filled in, someone then collecting and taking it to the mobile bank (when it's here) and then the treasurer collating all the paperwork. All this is avoided by one tap of a card.

Why not have a go please? Amounts can be varied, Gift Aid (adding an extra 20% to your gift) can be claimed as an optional extra

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) supports the Church of England maintain a **presence** in all our towns, cities and villages.

The PGS is a direct-debit scheme allowing donors to give on a weekly, quarterly or annual basis, with Gift aid and inflationary options.

It is designed to support churches by a simple and secure service.

- -New donors can set up
- online, parishgiving.org.uk
- -or by phone 0333 002 1271,
- -Via the Diocesan web-site (search Gift form)- printed and posted, or filled in online.
- -or paper application forms are available on the table at the back of church

Or by simply using the QR code.



General Fund

Annual Matters

Don't forget Eleectoral Roll for 2023

It is time to update the church Electoral Roll. Forms must be completed by **30**th **April.** This is the nearest thing we have to a membership list- so active committed members of the church are encouraged to be on the roll. It shows we are all part of the church family._Please see Sue for a form.

Two PCC. and Two Deanery Synod members.

Elected for a three year term. P.C.C. meetings are usually held every 4-6 weeks on a Monday from 7-9pm. Deanery Synod meetings are held 3 times a year. Elected members represent St Mary's Church at local synod meetings and bring back information regarding national and local matters. The PCC is responsible for planning decisions, safety, finance, and care of the church. They also have to complete basic safe guarding training. Please pray and see if you could take a role. We need a wide variety of gifts and experience. New PCC members are always welcome.

Sides people/Welcome Team

New extra welcome team people are needed. If you are interested please see Sue.

Churchwardens

Church Wardens have a responsibility to work with the vicar and PCC in overall care for all things to do with the building, money, services, and welfare of the church. Two Churchwardens are elected annually for a year. They are helped by Deputy Wardens. Please ask if you would like to find out more about becoming a Deputy or Churchwarden.

Forms available from Sue end the cottage rooms on Friday morning

Annual meeting The APCM will be on Sunday May 21st at noon.

A yearbook for 2022 will be prepared. Can all articles and news for 2022 about church life be given to Suzy by April 28th please. If you can email them to officestmm@gmail.com. Please get writing and contribute items of interest about St Marvs in 2022.

The Great Church Clean Saturday 22nd April from 9.00am

Please come and help Spring Clean the Church and Churchyard ready to celebrate the King's coronation and Worship the Lord.



"We all NEED water, no matter who or where we are!

Please Support Water Aid.

Through lent pop a coin in a jar for water aid when you draw water from the tap.

Jars can be handed in on Easter Sunday

"Loving God, we ask for Your blessings on children, mothers, fathers, and communities who are thirsty. Purify, protect, and multiply their water sources. Strengthen their resolve so they may fully enjoy the benefits of clean water — essentials like education, gardens of fresh produce, and good health. Amen

Co-Eco Builders – April: Focus on Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org, including one billion people in more than 193 countries.

The idea of Earth Day reportedly first originated among the people fighting the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. It is said that on seeing the scale of the oil spill disaster it was decided to create a focus day to help prevent future cases. Since the first Earth Day, it has gone from strength to strength, with its crowning achievement that came in 2016, when the Paris Agreement came into force for the majority of the world's countries, ensuring increased environmental protection.

The focus of Earth Day is to protect the environment and biodiversity and volunteering is one of the key themes. Millions of people will take part in Earth Day, and it is hoped that many will volunteer to improve the environments where they live.

What You Can Do

- Why not spend some time in our beautiful churchyard, for quiet reflection and whilst there undertake some litter picking (equipment available in Church)?
- Spend time in prayer and considering ways to inhabit our common home more sustainably and take bold action to preserve creation in all its brilliance and complexity.
- Remember: Small acts matter. You don't have to plant a forest to enjoy Earth Day. Even if you feel like using a reusable water bottle instead of buying a plastic bottle doesn't make much of a difference, your small acts can change and improve the world we live in.





Plus the return of Plant Table, time to think about next seasons vegetables and flowers. The plant table makes a good home for surplus seedlings and is a good source of others.

Sext Kids Discover Conservation

Infotoory Michael Kline-Stinglo

Donations of plants, seeds and produce indoor and out are welcome. Don't forget, you don't have to bring something to take something away (and you don't ha take something away just because you bring something!).

new mes.

EMBRACE in the Middle East

We are adding Embrace the middle east to our list of charities we tithe with At the moment they are supporting people affected by the earthquakes. Although the earthquake struck over a month ago work still carries on trying to repair and maintain the infra structure.

Embrace's mission is to;

We support our <u>Christian partners</u> in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised communities. Where there is a need – for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights – we, with our partners, respond. Our goal is to contribute to a culture of human flourishing in a troubled region.

Ours is a vision of love in action. It is rooted in, and inspired by, Christ's invitation to care for those most in need.

When things are bad and you're feeling sad. Just tune in online and all will be fine!

Every Sunday from 11.00 AM a pre-recorded service is available on

St. Mary's Church, Mildenhall Facebook

page. You can also listen to the same service on Zack FM community radio (FM 105.3) on Sunday

Easter Sunday

2.30pm Easter service at Mildenhall Lodge- for the service list Please come and encourage the residents. Let's make this a special time for community and fellowship.

Monday May 8th- Coronation weekend Open Churchyard Open Tower, 2-5pm.

There are many ways you can help us to make this a memorable event for the community and ourselves.

Keep the day free-ready to volunteer

sign up to help with a Churchyard activity

welcome visitors into the church

serve refreshments

be on duty in the tower

sell tickets.

We will also need help beforehand, Cleaning the tower steps, making ready, setting up tables etc. Please can you plant up any seedlings or plants for the plant table. Plus any Cakes or biscuits you may be able to bake.

Celebrate the King's coronation.

We will be having a special service on May 7th at 11am to celebrate the King's coronation

PRAYER FOCUS FOR LENT and APRI

<u>Prayers for the King</u>- The Church of England has called for us to pray for the King from Easter Sunday until his coronation on May 7th. Please pick up a bookmark with a prayer that you can use and as a reminder to pray.

A presence prayer

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' (Isaiah 6:3, NIV)

God of all,

As the dawn colours the sky, and the birds call forth the new day – Open my heart to your presence.

As I go about my daily routine; as I eat, drink, work and play – Open my heart to your presence.

As I walk among the beauty of your world; as I take in its wonders – Open my heart to your presence.

As the clouds of grief, sorrow and worry surround me – Open my heart to your presence.

As I face doubt, uncertainty and the shaking of my beliefs – Open my heart to your presence.

As the sun lowers, darkness falls, and I lay down my head to sleep – Open my heart to your presence.

Amen.

Gideon Heugh

Gideon writes for Tearfund and is a poet and environmentalist

Almighty and merciful God,

whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

An invitation to St. Mary's Church Mildenhall

"Fun and faith for all"

Sunday April 2nd

4.00-4.45pm



Activities and lots of things to do within an informal interactive service. For all ages

All welcome

For more information – please contact Sue-01638 711930 stmmildenhall@aol.com

Completing the time capsule

The Time capsule which we began in Advent 2019 as part of the 800 celebrations. It was set aside during the pandemic, but it would be a good time to close the time capsule during the Coronation weekend.

So, please think about anything which you would like to add to the box- it can be something written, a photo, picture, newspaper article, memories, cards. Ideally it will be something which will help people in years to come to learn what was happening in Mildenhall and the nation in the years 2020 to 2023. General facts about lifestyle, events and matters that interest historians now and in years to come.

It could be about the Queen, the pandemic, everyday life, events, school, developments. Please get your contributions ready to bring on May.

Open Deanery Synod meeting Wed. April 19th from 7pm

To welcome people from other churches, help to serve refreshments and an opportunity to hear about ways to support those going through domestic abuse.

Everybody is welcome.

St.Mary's Church, Mildenhall

Coronation weekend Open Tower



Come and enjoy the view from 120 feet high

Monday May 8th 2-5pm

Adults £5.00 and 10-16 years old, £3.00
All proceeds will be for St.Mary's Church Building Fund for repairs.

Our insurers allow children only aged over 10 years to go up the tower.

All aged 10-16 must be accompanied by someone over 18 years.

For safety, non-slip footwear must be worn.

Trips are subject to weather permitting.

Groups of 8 will leave the foot of the tower at 2.00pm, 2.30pm, 3.00pm, 3.30pm, 4.00pm 4.30pm & 5.00pm.

- Beginning to descend from the top 20mins.later.

Tickets available from 2.00pm

Lots to see in the church

Also, Open Churchyard event and refreshments.



Open Churchyard

Monday 8th May 2023 2 – 5pm

Churchyard Nature Trail

Survey to Update Churchyard Wildlife Records

Open Tower

Craft Workshops

Eco-Activities

Exhibition

Refreshments

And lots to do and discover for all ages

Free Entry

News from the PCC

In October 2022 we circulated ideas for comment about ways to grow in the future as a church. After a morning to talk the PCC drew up a Growing in God plan-following the Diocese' areas of focus:

1. Growing Deeper and younger: Aim- to encourage faith and prayer.

By engaging with families and St.Mary's academy school using "Any Time, any place, any prayer" books and activities" through the year.

By focusing on a book of the Bible every month at the main service with "give aways" as reminders and opportunities to share.

By re-vamping the prayer area.

- **2. Growing in number**: Aim- to develop warm spaces in the church and Cottage rooms. -By providing a screen under the tower to make this an enclosed room- a long term project. -By improved economical heating in the Cottage rooms and opening this a warm space to welcome the community for refreshments, time to chat, do puzzles/crafts etc.
- 3. **Growing in influence**: Aim- to engage with the town community by making more of the beauty of the church and churchyard.

By celebrating the 600 anniversary of the nave roof angels- starting with and Amazing angel festival in Advent and continuing through the year.

By following through our Eco projects and applying for Gold Eco Church.

By an Open Tower and Open Churchyard day to invite the public to explore. As you see some of the above has already happened, or planned. At the last meeting in February the PCC agreed to apply for permission to install a new screen under the tower.

If you have further ideas about things we can do, please let us know.

<u>Other news</u>- finding a new Team Rector for the Forest Heath team, to live at Barton Mills and look after the Lark and Lee group following the retirement of Rev. David Everett is underway.

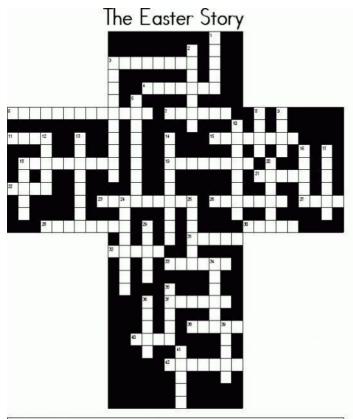
A meeting has taken place with Suffolk County Council and plans to make the walkway safer are in process.

Giving via the Parish Giving scheme remains steady, but we face an uphill challenge to pay more towards the Parish share.

£300 Tithe money over the year will be given to Youth for Christ, Embrace, Tearfund, Barnabas Fund, St.Mary's Mission Pot and Emergency boxes.

The next PCC meeting is on April 3rd at 7pm.

Please think about becoming a PCC member and help to make decisions.



Across

- It means "A place of a skull;"
 Where He was crucified
 These guys were crucified on each side of Him.
- 6. And He was numbered with the
- Jesus was anointed with precious ointment in preparation for His
- 11. This part of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom
- And when the sixth hour was come, there was _____ over the whole land.
- 18. This Roman said, "Truly this was the Son of God."
- 19. The high priest who said it was
- expedient that one man die for all. 21. The of blood was
- purchased with the betrayal money 22. The disciple that took Mary home
- as his own mother 23. He appeared first unto Mary

- 26. "Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do."

 27. He shed His blood so our _____
- would be forgiven.

 28. The Last Supper was a celebration
- of this Jewish holiday
- 30. The ruler of Galilee
- This was sent to strengthen Him when He was praying in the garden.
- 32. This apostle denied that He knew Jesus three times.
- 33. This wealthy man of Arimathea buried Him.
- 37. The doubtful apostle
- 38. "A spirit has not ____ and bones as ye see me have."
- 40. And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet
- 42. They gave Him this to drink when He was on the cross.

Down

- The father-in-law to the high priest. Jesus was first brought to him
- Another name for the place of His crucifixion.
- The garden where Jesus prayed before He was arrested
- And it was the third hour, and they Him.
- This was written and set over His head: " of the Jews"
- Judas betrayed Jesus with a
 Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every
- ." 12. Joseph took His body down and
- wrapped it in fine _____.

 13. The prisoner released by Pilate instead of Jesus
- 14. The pharisee that brought
- spices for His burial 16. The apostle who betrayed the
- Christ

 17. "Why seek ye the _____ among
 - the dead?"
- He was taken up; and a received Him out of their sight.
 Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty
- pieces of _____.

 24. And they crucified Him, and parted His , casting
- lots: 25. He appeared to two disciples
- on the way to this village. 29. Jesus told Peter to feed His
- 34. The Roman governor who washed his hands of the whole
- affair
 35. This was rolled in front of the
- tomb and then sealed.
 36. and His sweat was as it were great drops of
- 39. The soldier pierced His side with this
- 41. He is not here: for He is as He said.

- The church will be open for prayer during the following times:
- Tuesdays: 9:30 10:00 AM (Service from 9:45 10:00 AM)
- Wednesdays: 3:00 3:15 PM Evening Prayer
- Thursdays: 7:30 8:00 PM (Compline from 7:45 8:00 PM)
- Fridays: 9:30 10:00 AM (Service from 9:45 10:00 AM)

Emergency Supply Boxes

All donations are needed and appreciated. Your generosity helps those in need. Please feel free to drop donations in the back of the Church. Milk, toiletries and tins of meat and fish are especially needed. Thank you for helping the community.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

YOU ARE WELCOME TO CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS OR SOCIALLY DISTANCE AND/OR TO USE HAND SANITIZER.

YOU MAY SIT WHERE YOU LIKE IN THE CENTER PEWS. PLEASE LEAVE THE SIDE AISLES FREE FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE MORE SPACE.

CONTACTS

Rev. Sue Leathley: 8 Church Walk 01638 711930 stmmildenhall@aol.com Andrew Borrett (Church Warden): 01638 713538

andrew.borrett@hotmail.com

Carole Sinclair (Church Warden): 01638 562979

Carolesinclair53@gmail.com

David Revera (Assistant Church Warden): 01638 711930

daverevera@aol.com

Suzy (Administrator): 07579 018645 Fridays 10-11pm in the cottage rooms officestmm@gmail.com

Jean Bates (Treasurer) 01638 716195 <u>stmmtreafin@yahoo.co.uk</u>
For prayer requests or a listening ear on the phone, contact Ann Leeks 01638 718902 or Sue Leathley 01638 711930

Buddy's blog

Woof, woof and surprise!

I love giving surprises- like the other day when Dad turned His back for just enough time to surprise him, by clearing the meat from his plate and licking it clean. Yum!

Next, I got Mum's pencil, then snap and surprise, now she has two little pencils (with a few teeth mark decorations for good measure).

I especially like listening in to the human's conversation- for things like-"Buddy hasn't been jumping on the dining room table lately". So, then, I make sure I do, several times in fact. One bounce and surprise! And again and again......

Or, "Buddy hasn't sat in that chair for a while"- so off come the dog covers, just ready for me to snuggle in- surprise! And, "Buddy has been very good recently and not torn his toy box to bits". Cue, time to tear the cardboard to shreds, and surprise, no box left!

Then, there is the woofing, just when they are sleepy, time to wake them up with a good surprise hearty woof. Or a surprise swish of the tail to knock over one of Mum's plants, or Dad's pile of letters.... There's never a dull moment when I am around.

There weren't many dull moments when Jesus was around either. He was always full of surprises- miracles, healing, walking on water, water into wine, a great big picnic for thousands from a few loaves and fish. Then the big one-surprise – back to life after 3 days in the grave. What a surprise when they had seen him very dead, bruised and battered from being nailed to the cross. Definitely dead, as the soldier tested his side with his sword. Then, firmly sealed inside the tomb with a gigantic stone. Yet, none of that could stop Jesus coming back to life.

What a surprise, the tomb was empty- and there was news of surprise appearances: Jesus in the garden, in a locked room, on the road to Emmaus,

by the lake. I hope we never grow weary of the joy of surprises and especially the one that Jesus was dead and is now alive. And he is our friend forever.

Happy Easter, woof, woof, from Buddy, one of the vicarage dogs.