

THE SEASON AHEAD

ST MARY'S CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the 2nd issue of our quarterly newsletter

The aim of our quarterly edition newsletter is to give you an broader overview of life in St Mary's Church, Blackpool.

Don't forget, we still have St Mary's TWA (The Week Ahead) to provide you with a weekly breakdown of what's happening as well.

*See
What's
Inside*

- **A Year Plan @ St Mary's** - an overview of all that's happening in the church over the course of the year.
- **Eco Tips** - see what you can do to look after the earth that God's given us.
- **For Your Fridge Door** - the place to find the rotas, contact details and dates for your diary!



Coffee Time with the Vicar...

Doesn't time fly?

Right from my earliest childhood memories until I was about 16 years old, in the words of the old Cliff Richard song, "Time dragged by real slow." The time between one Christmas, birthday or summer holiday and the next seemed to be interminable and as a mid-teenager it seemed to me that it would be forever thus!

Then at the age of 16 my GCSEs (or 'O' Levels as they were called back in those days) showed up and my year 11 absolutely flew by, and from that point on, every year seems to have gone faster and faster. Does this feeling of time speeding up ring a bell with anyone else?

In James 4 v 13-15, we read the following: 'Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'

This passage seems to me to be saying that no matter how fast or slow our lives seem to go, we need to remember that whatever we do or achieve will be in the context of God's timing and purposes. We don't know due to our finite human knowledge what the next 24 hours will bring our way much less than next year, however, we can have confidence in God's timings, purposes and plans.

As I write this article, I am looking forward to Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas and they all look so far away, yet soon all three of these events will be upon us. When it feels as if time flies, even though we all have the same 24 hours in a day and 7 days in a week, let us acknowledge that no matter what comes our way, we need to be trusting in God's timing and not our own whether our lives seem to move at a crawl or a gallop.

Robert Legge, Vicar





Month	Event
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 27th @ 7.00pm – Quiz Night in St Mary's Church Hall. £3 entry.
October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun 5th @ 10.00am - Harvest service with Jacob's Join afterwards in St Mary's Church Hall. • Sat 11th @ 7.00pm – Social Night with buffet in St Mary's Church Hall.
November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun 9th @ 10.00am – Remembrance Day service in St Mary's Church. • Sat 22nd @ 11.00am – St Mary's Church Winter Fair in St Mary's Church Hall.
December  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs 4th @ 1.30pm for 2.00pm – Ladies Fellowship & Friendship Group Christmas Meal at a garden centre venue. More details to follow. • Christingle weekend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sat 6th @ 10.00am – Christingle Coffee morning in St Mary's Church Hall. o Sun 7th @ 5.00pm – Christingle service in St Mary's Church. • Wed 10th @ 7.00pm – Carol Service in St Mary's Church. • Wed 17th @ 10.00am – Bereavement Service in St Mary's Church. • Mon 22nd @ 3.00pm – Teatime with Santa in St Mary's Church Hall. Tickets required - £5.00. • Wed 24th @ 2.00pm – Christmas Eve Crib service in St Mary's Church. • Wed 24th @ 11.30pm – Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion in St Mary's Church. • Thurs 25th @ 10.00am – Christmas Day service in St Mary's Church.
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 24th @ 7.00pm – Quiz Night & Bingo in St Mary's Church Hall.
February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed 18th @ 10.00am – Ash Wednesday service in St Mary's Church. • Thurs 19th or 26th (date TBC) @ 2.00pm – Bishop's Lent Course in St Mary's Church.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun 29th @ 10.00am – Palm Sunday service in St Mary's Church.
April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs 2nd @ 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday service in St Mary's Church. • Fri 3rd @ 2.00pm - Good Friday reflection – An Hour at the Cross in St Mary's Church. • Sun 5th @ 10.00am - Easter Sunday service in St Mary's Church. • Sat (date TBC) @ 11.00am – St Mary's Spring Fair in St Mary's Church Hall.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th or 17th (date TBC) after the church service 11.30am – APCM in St Mary's Church.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation event for Wardens – date, time and venue TBC.
July & August	No events scheduled at present.

Please note: events, dates and times may be subject to change.

See St Mary's TWA and Facebook for the latest information.

ECO SPOT

Eco Tips for Autumn @ St Mary's Church

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation for the benefit of future generations as well as for our own comfort and enjoyment of nature. So, what does that mean for us?

- Lights! Do we really need to have them on? It's good to turn them off if we leave a room both here at church and in our homes.
- Could we change more bulbs to energy efficient LED? That's what we're aiming to do, especially in the church hall as we hopefully work towards an Eco Church Award!
- Weatherproof your home ready for winter. A simple way is to draft-proof windows and doors which will keep you warmer without turning up the heat! Please wear a coat to church once the weather turns!
- Food shop locally and buy seasonal goods. I'm definitely looking forward to a big pot of autumn vegetable stew to last a couple of days! Maybe with some dumplings!



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Charity shops are always grateful for good, useable items and you can always pick up a bargain new outfit too!

Michelle (Church Warden)

STAY
SAFE

Safeguarding Spot

Do you have a safeguarding concern?

Tracy is our **Safeguarding Lead** person and if you would like to talk to her, you can see her in church or she can be contacted via: safeguarding@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can speak to **Robert**, our **Vicar**, who you can see in church, or email: vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk, or phone 01253 421966.

For more information about safeguarding in St Mary's, why not check out our:

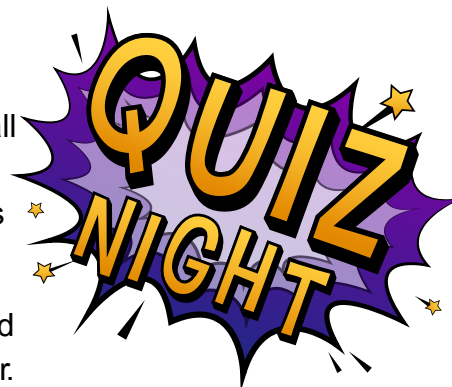
- noticeboard in the front entrance hall and/or,
- website where you can find information on our homepage as well as on the dedicated safeguarding page www.stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

A note from your Warden...

We have spent a lot of money on our church trying to maintain a water-tight building for us all to enjoy worship in. Please do your best to support the two big fundraisers coming up this season:

The Quiz Night on Saturday 27th September and Winter Church Fair on Saturday 22nd November.

You will notice that coffee on a Sunday is only twice a month. This is because of a shortage of volunteers!



FOR YOUR FRIDGE DOOR



CONTACTS,
DATES &
ROTAS!

CONTACTS

Church Warden

warden1@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

Vicar

vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

Safeguarding

safeguarding@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

Treasurer

treasurer@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

**Communications &
administration**

communications@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

LADIES FELLOWSHIP & FRIENDSHIP GROUP



LFFG Dates for the Diary!

- 4th Sept - Memories of Africa by Margaret Crosbie.
 - 11th Sept - Trinity Hospice Tea Party.
 - 2nd Oct - Tales of a Customs Officer by Brian Topping.
 - 9th Oct - VJ Day talk by Marjorie.
 - 23rd Oct - Trip to Boundary Mill with Friendship Group (see Pat or Shirley).
 - 6th Nov - N Vision talk by Brian and Jo.
 - 13th Nov - Guide Dogs - a talk by Lisa (a puppy may or may not be present!)
- Other Thursday dates will be filled with fun and games or a quiz!

Sept,
Oct &
Nov

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Date	Welcomers	Prayers	Chalice	Readers	Coffee	AV team
7 th Sept	Val, Allan	Stuart T	Kath T	Ann H, Lauryn	Val, Kath T	Tracy, Fibbie
14 th Sept	Janet, Brian	Pat R	Pat R	Alan, Karen	Janet, Kath M	Nirva, Helen
21 st Sept	Sue, Kath M	Doreen	Michelle	Sue, Nirva	No coffee	Lauryn, Fibbie
28 th Sept	Dorothy, Sharon	Alan	Mary	Sheila, Carole	No coffee	Fibbie, Tracy
5 th Oct	Val, Allan	Rachael	Rachael	Rachael, Loic	Kath T, Janet	Lauryn, Helen
12 th Oct	Janet, Brian	Pat R	Pat R	Yvette, Tryphosa	Val, Kath M	Fibbie, Nirva
19 th Oct	Dorothy, Sharon	Robert	Michelle	Ann H, Lauryn	No coffee	Tracy, Fibbie
26 th Oct	Val, Allan	Stuart T	Kath T	Michelle, Karen	No coffee	Nirva, Fibbie
2 nd Nov	Sue, Sheila	Pat R	Pat R	Sue, Sheila	Janet, Kath T	Lauryn, Helen
9 th Nov	Kath M, Pat R	Rachael	Rachael	Rachael, Loic	Val, Kath M	Nirva, Lauryn
16 th Nov	Dorothy, Sharon	Alan	Mary	Pat R, Carole	No coffee	Fibbie, Helen
23 rd Nov	Janet, Brian	Robert	Pat R	Doreen, Pat H	No coffee	Nirva, Fibbie
30 th Nov	Charles, Margaret	Stuart T	Kath T	Charles, Yvette	Val, Kath M	Helen, Michelle

