

March Team St John, St Mary, St Peter, St Wendreda

8th Sunday after Trinity 10th August

Regular Church Services

St Peter's Sundays 8am & 11am; Wednesdays 10am

St Mary's Sundays 9.15am; St Wendreda's Sundays 11am

St John's Sundays 9.30am; Tuesdays 10am

THIS WEEK Choral Evensong, Sunday 10th August

4pm at St John's

All Welcome

Meditation

In the Church's year, we stand between the Feast of the Transfiguration, 6th August, and one of the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15th August. In national life we stand between the 80th Anniversaries of the atomic bombs being dropped on Hiroshima, 6th August; Nagasaki, 9th August; and the Japanese surrender in 1945, VJ Day, 15th August. We will be holding a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Broad Street at 12noon. But it seems to me that there is a lot less fuss than was made of VE day back in May.

We have, in St Peter's, the laid-up Standard of the Cambridgeshire Regiment. The Cambridgeshire regiment was raised in March and in other local towns. The regiment had been sent to the Far East, and in 1942 was involved in fighting on the Malay peninsula and then fell back to Singapore. Singapore was undefendable from attacks from the land, and the troops were not well equipped, so surrender was inevitable. So, the men of the Cambridgeshire Regiment were taken into captivity and although many died as prisoners of war as a result of harsh, cruel and inhuman treatment in camps, mines and on the infamous Burma railroad, some survived to VE day and returned to March. Today, I happened to visit a member of our congregation whose husband was captured, and who survived, but was changed by these experiences. Earlier in the year she had lent me the autobiography of one of the regimental chaplains who tells of great courage, heroism and reliance during their time of captivity. Tellingly, she said to me today, that those who came back did not expect to be welcomed as heroes, but rather expected to be looked down upon as failures for surrendering. Now, I know that the war in Europe did impact more on people in Britain than the war in the far east. I do recognise that the Americans bore the brunt

of the fighting against the Japanese, but it was all too near to home for servicemen from Australia, India and other parts of the then British Empire. And yes, we should remember that the highest cost of the European War was paid by the Russians. But I have long felt, sadly, that VJ day has much less prominence than VE day in our collective national identity and memory.

There may also be a dimension connected to the fact that the Japanese defeat followed straight on from the dropping of two atomic bombs, a Uranium bomb on Hiroshima, and a plutonium one on Nagasaki. I am not going to enter into the historical debate as to whether it shortened the war or saved lives or was justified, but perhaps we do as a nation feel a bit apprehensive or even guilty, that it was *our* side who are the only ones to have detonated nuclear weapons. I have long had a suspicion that the dropping of the second bomb was as much driven by the desire to test a different nuclear bomb as it was to force a Japanese surrender. Now, when we have lived for 80 years under a nuclear shadow, then questions, challenges and perhaps even acknowledging our shame swept under the carpet, are to be allowed. In those 80 years, nuclear threat has sometimes felt more immediate, and sometimes more distant. There have been attempts to sell policies of deterrence, mutually assured destruction, and others; people tend to find evidence to support their own positions. It seems clear that whatever the possession of nuclear weapons has achieved, it has not been peace; as there have been many wars throughout those 80 years, and indeed are all too vividly represented on our screens now. More nations have become nuclear powers, although, thank God, their use has been limited to some nuclear-tipped warheads.

We have just finished a series of readings about the prophet Elijah and his successor Elisha. Elijah is taken up into heaven, as was Moses. And neither have any known grave. Some saw Jesus, in his day, as the new Elijah or the new Moses; or Elijah returned, or Moses returned. In the Transfiguration gospel three disciples see Jesus in glory, with Moses and Elijah flanking him. So, our Gospel writers seem to want us to understand that Jesus is not Elijah or Moses, but rather that he does stand in solidarity and succession to them.

The August 15th Mary Festival is of her assumption into heaven; Mary being taken up into heaven and having no known grave. I must admit I have always preferred to celebrate the biblical Mary feasts associated with her part in Jesus' birth, the annunciation, and her birthday (which must have been some day as her humanity is important as a guarantor of Jesus' humanity, so Sept 8th is as good a day as any) and have rather played down this Feast of the

Assumption. But, having read of Elijah being taken up to heaven, and his connection being made with Jesus in the Transfiguration gospel..... If Moses and Elijah were assumed into heaven *before* Jesus, why not Mary *after* Jesus' own resurrection and ascension? Does this not serve to complete God's incarnation; the Holy Spirit coming on Mary at Jesus' conception to show that God is united with humanity in solidarity and in purpose, and that Mary going up to heaven in a special (but not unique) way to show the unity and union of God and humanity which Mary is a key part; and that the love that conceived Christ is never ending, and remains personal and intimate.

And if God's very intention, nature, and purpose is to become human in Christ, so it is to affirm that all humanity is in the image and likeness of God, then indeed we should be reminded of this in these times of remembering The War and wars more generally. And, that we should be allowed to have shame and horror, where any side in any war, past or present, dehumanises people. "Whatsoever you do to the least of these my brethren, that you do unto me."

Prayers.

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite: have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of your servant *Charles, our King*, and Governor, that he (knowing whose minister he is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all her subjects (duly considering whose authority he has) may faithfully serve, honour and humbly obey him, in You, and for You, according Your blessed word and ordinance, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The GENERAL THANKSGIVING

All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 we your unworthy servants
 give you most humble and hearty thanks
 for all your goodness and loving kindness
 to us and to all people.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
 and all the blessings of this life;
 but above all for your immeasurable love
 in the redemption of the world
 by our Lord Jesus Christ,
 for the means of grace,
 and for the hope of glory.
 And give us, we pray,

 such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
 and that we show forth our praise,
 not only with our lips but in our lives,
 by giving up ourselves to your service,
 and by walking before you in holiness
 and righteousness all our days;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THIS WEEK Choral Evensong,
Sunday 10th August
4pm at St John's
All Welcome**

Future Events for your Diaries
AUGUST

Thu 14th St John Toddlers Beach Party.
Sat 30th Model Railway Exhibition St Mary
Sun 31st Armed Services events in Park, Service at 5pm.

SEPTEMBER

Sat 13th CMS Concert at St Peter's
Sat 13th "Ride and Stride" Walk, Cycle etc
Sat 13th Working Party in St Mary's Churchyard
Sun 14th Sept Musical afternoon St John's Choir
at 129 West End – Refreshments and Raffle
Sat 20th St John's Autumn Fair
Sun 21st Harvest Festival at St John's
Sat 27th Lions Event at St Peters

OCTOBER

Sun 5th Harvest Festivals at St Peter & St Mary
Sun 5th 2.30pm 3Counties Masonic Service St Peter
Sun 12th 1 for 1.30 Harvest Lunch at Maureen's
Sun 12th 4pm Choral Evensong St John's
Sat 18th Bondi Concert 7pm St John's
Sun 26th Mourners Service at St John's 4pm
Tues 28th Mourners Service at St John's 10am
Wed 29th Mourners Service at St Peter's 10am

NOVEMBER

Sat 1st Requiem at St Peter's 10am
Sun 2nd Mourners Service 9.15am St Mary's
Sun 2nd Mourners Service at St Peter's 4pm
Sat 8th St Mary Coffee Morning at Sue's
Sat 8th CMS Concert St Peter's 2pm
Sat 22nd St Peter's Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

Sat 6th St John's Christmas Fair/ Choir Singing
Sun 7th Dec 1pm Christmas Lunch at St Mary's
Fri 12th – Sun 14th Christmas Tree Festival
at St Peter's, with Christingle Sunday 3pm
Wed 17th-Fri 19th Winterwonderland at St John's
Sat 20th Dec St Mary's Coffee Morning at Roger's
Sunday 21st Carol Services 3pm St Mary, 4.30pm
St John, 6.30pm St Peter

Wednesday 27th August
Christian Aid Garden Party
2-4pm at the Rectory
All Welcome

**Saturday 6th Sept – Quiet day at St Mary's
Led by Mother Jane**

Christian Aid Lunch
This Wednesday 12-1pm
in St Peter's Hall

8th Sunday after Trinity 10th August

**Welcome to St John the Evangelist,
St Peter & St Mary Churches
in the March Team**

Today CHORAL EVENSONG
4pm at St John's

Regular Sunday Services

St John 9.30am Sung Communion

First Sunday of each Month 9.30am Wholeness Service
with Laying on of Hands

MESSY CHURCH 1-3pm

3rd Sunday of the month, not in August

St Mary 9.15am Traditional Sung Communion

St Peter 8am Holy Communion

11am Sung Communion

*Last Sunday of each month, **Sunday Club***

There will be no session in August (31st).

TUESDAY St John's; 10am Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY St Peter's; 10am Holy Communion

Zoom services Sunday 5.15pm Team Service

Thursday 8.30am Morning Prayer

Team Rector: Rev Andrew Smith 01354 572117
andrew.marchurch@gmail.com

*All enquiries about Weddings Baptisms etc to Andrew
Baptisms; 12.30 St Peter; 2pm or later St John St Mary*

Team Leader in Mission Ruth Clay 07905950849

RevRuth.marchchurches@outlook.com

Clergy; Jane Rees 463284, Anthony Chandler 652894,

Jenny Webb 650855, Mother Jane Dicker 661099

Readers; Hannah Taylor 661712, Diane Wise 651512.

Karen Pritchard karen.marchchurches@outlook.com

Next Sunday, Aug 17th, 9th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 5 v1-17, Luke 7 v36- 8 v3

2pm Baptism at St John's

BAPTISMS

12.30pm St Peter's; Ada-Pearl Sheila Gillen

2pm St John's; Alice Enli Whear

& Grace Enhui Whear

WEDDING

Friday 15th August 2.30pm St Peter's

Gary Cooke & Rebecca George-Layton

FUNERALS

Thurs 14th 12.30pm St Peter's; Leslie Newstead

This Friday 15th Aug VJ Day Service
12noon War Memorial

Prayer, Collect, for this week

O God, on whom our faith rests secure and whose kingdom we await, sustain us by word and sacrament and keep us alert for the coming of the Son of Man, that we may welcome him without delay. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Isaiah 1 v1 & 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

YEARS Mind – a reminder

The names we read out in the prayers in church are to be found in the 2024 diaries in each church. Please feel free to add any more names for the rest of this year. Diaries for 2026 entries will be available in the autumn

Names should be read on the Sunday the week before the anniversary, this week will be 10-16 Aug

*The names for the sick are also usually by this book, **and you can add names**, and for other names see the information on this notice sheet.*

Gospel of Luke 12 v32-40

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Prayer after Communion

God, our thief, you steal from us and dead complacent hearts and kindle a new flame: take from our hands the burden of worthless things, and make them ready to receive a greater gift: the love of a Servant King; through Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. **Amen.**

Regular Church Activities at St Peter's

Tuesday

10am-12noon Knit and Natter;
1st St Peter's MU 2.30-4pm 3rd Deanery MU

Wednesday

10am Midweek Communion Service
1st Study Group 7.30-9pm **Next Sept 3rd**

THIS WEEK Christian Aid Lunch
Hall 12-1pm (2nd Wed)

First Thursday No August meeting.

Next is 4th Sept at Rachel's
June Jackson on work in Prison Service.

St John's Church Activities

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.15-11.15 St John's Tots;

Tuesday

10am Midweek Communion Service
2nd Study Group 11-12 **THIS WEEK Aug 12th**
Study Group 7pm-8.30pm; Film The Chosen
resuming 2nd Sept.

Wednesdays

Thursday 1st Thursday Social Group (see above)
Friday Choir Practice in Church 7pm