

CENTREPIECE

August-September 2025

Free but donations are helpful

St Mary's Festival

End of WW11 commemoration
Redefining Rest



Civic Service

Redefining Rest

All about One World Group

What is a Julian Meeting?

Celebrating 50 years—Fr Michael



The Collegiate
Church of

Saint ⊕ Mary
in Stafford

StaffordChurches

Saint Chad : Collegiate Church of Saint Mary : Saint Leonard

RECTOR

ASSOCIATE PRIEST & TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAIN:

Rev. John Davis 01785 661382

Email:john_davis19@sky.com

ASSOCIATE PRIESTS

Rev. Preb. Michael Newman

01785 660158

eileenandmichael@outlook.com

Rev. Pam Merriott

01889 881030

pamamerriott@gmail.com

LAY MINISTERS

Mr Philip Taylor

01785 780717

philip21taylor@gmail.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR /PARISH OFFICE

Mrs. Samantha Sagar Tel: 01785 223600

Email: parishoffice@stmarysstafford.org.uk

For Baptisms and Weddings:
Please contact the Parish Administrator

Monday 11am—3pm
Tuesday 11am—3pm
Wednesday 11am—3 pm
Thursday 11am—3pm
Friday 11am—4pm

SERVICES IN STAFFORD CHURCHES

Usual weekly services

The three Parishes Eucharist on Sundays

8.30am at Saint Chads

10.00am at Saint Mary's

Tuesdays at noon in St Mary's

Wednesdays at 11.00am in St Chad's

Fridays at noon in St Chad's

First Sunday of the month at 10.00: a service at Saint Leonard's, Marston

There is a weekly newssheet sent out by email. If you are not receiving this and would like to, please contact the Parish Office.



From the Editors

Interesting that Fr John mentions £10 Poms in his rambling this month. We have relatives who were £10 Poms and went to Australia, from Liverpool, in the 1960s. Some years ago they invited us to go and see them so we did! Whilst there, we took the opportunity to travel round a bit and had a wonderful time. Kitty is now 102 and we still keep in touch.

Hope you enjoyed the festival and managed to come and view the exhibits or listen to some music. I particularly liked the garland around the main entrance door, it was so colourful and welcoming (see front cover). More photos can be found on the back cover.

*If you have something interesting to share with us —please do.
It's always nice to hear from different people.*

Steve and Dee Turner

steveanddeeturner@yahoo.co.uk

From The Musing Ministers

Well, we have certainly enjoyed summer weather these past weeks, perhaps too much summer weather for most of our liking. It has certainly been very hot, and affected my sleep, I am sure you have all felt the same.

If the weather predictions are anything to go by, and despite what we may think, they are fairly accurate, we must get used to these long very hot summers. I was talking to a friend who had just come back from a holiday in Egypt, and it never went below 50 degrees, so they spent most of the time inside the air-conditioned hotel. It makes me yearn for those childhood holidays in a caravan in rain-soaked Wales which we always seemed to have. Playing board games while the rain battered down onto the roof of the caravan keeping everyone awake. Perhaps the hot weather is better after all!

To see what is available to help our sleep in these very balmy hot nights I have taken to looking at the Web to see what is on offer. I never realised there are so many different fans, ductless air conditioning units, air conditioning units available. It's all too confusing for me, by the time I understand it all it will be the autumn, and we won't need one!

Father Michael mentioned the 'Ten Pound Poms' in his article in the last edition, and the interconnectedness of the age we live in, and you only have to look in the visitor's book in St Mary's to realise how true that is. We have

visitors literally from across the world, predominantly Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America, visiting the place their families started out from, and so often where family members were baptised and married in centuries past before setting off into the brave New World, never to return. It makes us realise the world really is a small place.

When we started our online services during the Covid Pandemic, we were being watched by congregations in New Zealand and Canada, and we know some of those members still catch up with our online services each Sunday. Interconnectedness in action.

The one article that really caught my notice was 'Making Memories' by the Revd Jeremy Oakley, Interim Warden at Dovedale House in the Peak District. St Mary's has a connection with Dovedale of course, firstly St Bertelin left the embryonic 'Staitheford' (Stafford), and went to live at Ilam, near to where Dovedale House is situated, and then our famous Izaak Walton, who's birthday we will celebrate on 10th August, wrote his book the '*Compleat Angler*', about his fishing experiences on the River Dove near to Ilam, and other rivers. Those of you who are Walton aficionados will know the '*Compleat Angler*' is supposed to be either the second or third most read book in the world after the Bible, depending on who you read on Google.

But my personal interest in the article by Jeremy Oakley was his description of he and his friend walking over the stepping stones at Dovedale. For me the last time I walked over those stepping stones was a moment of high drama and personal danger. It was New Year's Day 2015, and I went with two of my sons and two of my grandsons to walk along Dovedale. A nice invigorating New Year's Day Walk I thought, till about two miles up Dovedale I slipped and tore my left Quadriceps Muscle, which holds the top part of the leg to the bottom part, leaving me with a left leg that didn't work at all.

My two sons had to literally carry me out of Dovedale, but crossing the stepping stones, with the river Dove in full flow, crashing over the stones, was literally a nightmare. One son had to hold me up while the other had to get in the river and hold me up from below, so we could inch our way across to the other side and towards the car park where my car was parked. I was in a strange knee calliper contraption for three months and having to walk with crutches. An experience I will never forget.

Well, that's enough rambling for one episode.

Many Blessings
Father John



Chairman of Staffordshire County Council's Civic Service

The Annual Chairman of Staffordshire County Council's Service was held at St Mary's on Sunday 13th July. The Chairman, Paul Williams took office after the County Council Elections which were held in May.

The service was attended by many county councillors and guests and Civic Leaders from every local authority in Staffordshire.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Sir Ian Dudson, KCVO, CBE KStJ was in attendance together with Lady Dudson, and he read one of the lessons. This was particularly poignant because Sir Ian retired as Lord-Lieutenant on 15th July after 13 years of outstanding service to the Monarch and the people of Staffordshire.

Father Graham Bott, the Chairman's Chaplain gave the address.



Civic Services are all part of the rich tapestry of life at St Mary's, and something we are very proud to do for our Borough and County.

Father John

Ordained Ministry / Celebrating 50 years

Fr Michael Newman

I have recently acquired a new cassock, a belated gift from Eileen to mark my appointment as a Prebendary back in 2002! It looks very smart.

Our eldest daughter Helen said “ Well Dad you won’t be wearing it for long.” She is right. After 50 years of active ministry 10 years more would be a miracle. I live in hope.

I was ordained 29th September 1975 at the Collegiate Church of St Michael and All Angels in Tettenhall near Wolverhampton. It was unusual in those days to hold such services in a parish church but the Vicar persuaded the Bishop to make it part of Tettenhall’s millennial celebrations.

The service was quite overwhelming. It was the culmination of years of discernment and training but it had lighter moments. I will never forget the sight of the Archdeacon losing control over the stoles on his arm. They slivered away landing on the floor like so many snakes! As was the custom two posts as curate were to follow.

Serving with David Tustin at Tettenhall was a formative experience. He had been a curate here at St Mary’s. He was a kindly family man endowed with understanding and wisdom beyond his years. I owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all he taught me about the priestly life and parochial ministry

There was, however, much more to David’s ministry than I realised at the time. He was an excellent linguist and in his episcopal ministry did much to strengthen relationships with the German and Nordic churches for which he was awarded Lambeth Doctorate of Divinity. In his 91st year we are still in regular contact with each other.

Three years later we arrived in Uttoxeter to serve with the Preb. William Henry Osmund Moss. He was old school and had been a wartime chaplain in the Royal Navy. He was full of amusing stories, generous and warm hearted and if at times tactless, he was the perfect foil to the independently minded farming community of the area

In retirement Osmund conducted a campaign against home made communion wine. In advance of my arrival in Rugeley he banished “ the iniquitous brew “ from the parish. A good bottle of port was required. I will remain forever grateful.

Incumbencies were to follow at Norton Canes and then as Team Rector and later Rural Dean of Rugeley. I cannot pretend that ordained ministry has been easy but it's certainly been rewarding. It's quite remarkable how we have always seemed to arrive in the right place at the right time. I owe much to the Team Vicars, Curates, Wardens and so many parishioners for their support in ministry over the years.

It was to St Mary's we came in 2015 following retirement. It was the church where my parents had married in 1945. It has been a privilege to share in the life of St Mary's together with the congregations of St Chad's and St Leonard's.

Father Richard was most generous in his welcome. In his own words he took great care to provide retired clergy with "a sanctuary" from which to maintain a ministry to the extent that health permitted. I had once thought only retired donkeys were admitted to a sanctuary but now I know differently! I hope that Richard will soon find his sanctuary.

In all this I have been sustained by the love and support of Eileen and the family. I will be presiding at the 10am Eucharist at St Mary's on Sunday 28th September. We do hope that you will be able to join us for the celebration.

With thanks,
Michael



Baptising our eldest daughter
Helen some 48 years ago

**Dates for next
QUIET MONDAYS
at Shallowford House**

**August 4th, September 15th, October 13th
9:45 am to 3.30 pm**

a gentle day of devotion, quiet time and worship

£26 including lunch
To book call 01785 760233

Further information about these Quiet Days from Sheila Young

St Mary's Festival 2025: Food for the Journey

June 21st – July 6th

Sue Savage

26 Events; photographic and visual arts displays; a picnic blanket and knitted fruit and veg; an arch to walk under; lots of floral displays around the church; a prayer tree; school art work and poetry; 5 services; things to think about both locally and nationally and internationally; many opportunities to socialise and make new friends, a chance to renew old friendships, 2000 visitors, and a wonderful community event supported by wonderful sponsors and our church family.



I think it is fair to say that this year we exceeded the expectations of the festival committee and we have made some much needed money for the church.

We supported 4 charities: House of Bread, Christian Food Aid, The Trussell Trust and Concordis International.

It is sometimes difficult to remember that this is only our third attempt when you look at the variety and quality of what we put on. It is an outreach and ministry that is unique to our church and the town of Stafford.

Thank you to everyone who supported in any way. It is much appreciated.

The dates for next year are: Saturday 20th June – Sunday 5th July 2026. Watch this space!

Below is some information from Concordis International about their work.

Hello everyone at St Mary's

You have recently made a very kind donation to the work of Concordis International in Central Africa. Firstly, thank you for your support; we appreciate it financially, but also as a way of knowing you are standing with us.

Secondly, you may be interested to know a bit about where your money is working.

We are peacebuilders. Concordis staff support communities who live where conflict is fought and felt, to help them find workable solutions that address the root causes of conflict and contribute to lasting peace and economic development. We do this in 5 places: Sudan, South Sudan, Abyei, Central

African Republic, Chad and Cameroon.

Peacebuilding is a process: it does not happen fast. We engage for the long term to build trusting relationships on all sides of the conflict, so that we can bring people together to talk and resolve their differences. The solutions found are sustainable and long lasting, because they are created by the communities who will implement them. We see change, even in the midst of awful situations and because of that we feel hope.

One such story of hope comes from Sudan, which is facing the worst hunger crisis in decades. Following Concordis' community peacebuilding initiatives in South Darfur, parents encouraged their sons to become farmers rather than soldiers, protecting their families by growing food. The consequence: there will not be famine this year in the part of Darfur where we work. The dependency on aid is reduced and self-reliance is restored.

You can find out more about our work here:
<https://concordis.international>

***Thank you for standing with us.
From all at Concordis***

Urban Folk Quartet

We are pleased to share this review from one happy member of the audience at the festival.

What a joy to hear the Urban Folk Quartet on 2nd July to a packed audience in the Church . Although many of the audience were familiar with the group, the performance was received with huge enthusiasm by everyone. Many of the tunes had been composed by members of the group and all were brilliantly played. Plus there were some well known tunes from the folk repertoire. The church just rocked.

All four very talented members of the group had the opportunity to be lead performer, and as ever local lad Dan Walsh showed us his instrumental skills on the banjo and guitar. Jo's daughters were real troupers on the Merchandise stand. The church looked really beautiful, and that, along with the great acoustics, just enhanced such a lovely gig. And of course we enjoyed the opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine during the performance.

Marjorie Halsall

Service to Commemorate the End of Second World War

On Saturday 21st June a service was held in St Mary's Church to commemorate the end of the Second World War, encompassing both VE and VJ Days. There was a large congregation of ex-Service men and women, including the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire and the Mayor of Stafford.

During the service wreaths were laid at the Borough Book of Remembrance, which is kept in our church, and young people representing the Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and St John Ambulance took part in the prayers and lit a 'Candle of Peace'.



One of those present was George Wright BEM, who joined the Royal Navy in 1943 aged 16, and because of his age he was not allowed to take part in any fighting, so he was a boat boy, which meant he had to carry the ammunition from the ammunition holds up to the guns, which was probably far more dangerous than being on deck taking part in the fighting.



Mr George Wright BEM and family

In 1944 George was on HMS Aurora at the Battle of Sicily, the battles take and retake Italy and Operation Dragoon, on the South Coast of France diverting German troops from the D Day landings.

After the war George returned to civvy life but after three years joined the Parachute Regiment and served for many more years and then served as Sergeant

Major in the Army Cadet Force. Having served the Royal British Legion for many years he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his outstanding service to his country.

It was a truly memorable service, honouring those who fought for peace and freedom, and especially those who gave their lives.

Father John

Lt Col (R) EC Dale OBE added:

It was a deliberate decision to commemorate both events on the same day as previous events had seen a sharp decline in attendance for the VJ Day event and the combination proved to be very effective as there were people in the congregation who were there to commemorate each individual event as well as both. The influence of the RBL was evident throughout the Service and afterwards a VE/VJ Tea Party was enjoyed by many in the Bird in Hand Stafford.

It was truly a poignant and memorable service and the organisers would like to thank Rev John and the church authorities for providing such a wonderful service to so many people.

**Lt Col (R) EC DALE OBE
Chairman
Stafford Branch
Royal British Legion**



Photos by Paul Milgate-Scarrott

All About St Mary's One World Group

In most editions of this magazine, there's a report from St Mary's One World Group. This month we decided to tell you more about the group itself.

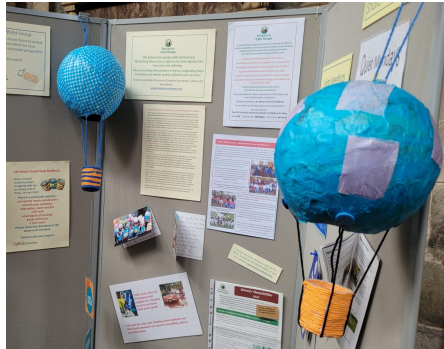
The One World Group has been in existence in St. Mary's for some forty years, since the time of Rev'd Mark Moreton, with the aims and activities and membership changing over time.

We aim to raise awareness of the issues faced by people both in developing nations and within the local community; and to be a focus for charitable giving within St. Mary's.

Some of the activities through which we seek to achieve this are:

1. We focus on a main overseas charity through a project lasting 2 to 3 years. At present, as our regular readers will know, this charity is Hospice Care Kenya. Thanks to the generosity of all those who support the charity, money is raised from:
 - Lent and Harvest donations
 - Collection at the Christmas Tree Festival Carol Service
 - The Cross in my Pocket – available in exchange for a donation
 - Charity Coffee Concerts during the year
 - Other initiatives such as an envelope savings scheme
2. We support two local charities - House of Bread and Christian Food Help Stafford. Collection boxes at the back of St. Mary's and St. Chad's churches are used throughout the year, and we make sure that donations from the congregations and friends are passed on regularly to our contacts at the charities. At times such as Harvest Festival, Christmas and Lent we organise focussed collections asking for specific items.
3. Short term projects may be used when one off issues arise. One of these was Toilet Twinning – having supported this a few years ago, we had a mini-project more recently to help Soroptimists International of Stafford achieve their aim of making Stafford a Toilet Twinning town. (The certificate is on the wall outside our own toilet)

The One World Group noticeboard has been updated and moved to the new display area in the north transept in St. Mary's. At the time of writing this is a "work in progress" but do go and have a look!



At present we have six members: Chris Bown, Sarah Haszard, Brian Lloyd, Pauline Roycroft, John Savage and Jenny Stewart; we're looking to increase our membership. If this is something you'd like to become involved in please do speak to one of us to find out more or ring Pauline on 01785 244556.

Postscript:

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the House of Bread extra appeal last month - we delivered three big boxes full of food and other items. As well as this we collected two full boxes for Christian Food Help. Both groups sent their thanks for these contributions.

House of Bread & Christian Food Help

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the House of Bread appeal last month—we delivered three big boxes full of food and other items. As well as this we collected two full boxes for Christian Food Help. Both appeals are ongoing so if you can help, please leave any of the following items in St Mary's or St Chads to be passed on:

UHT milk	pasta sauces
Tea bags	coffee
Biscuits	sugar
Jam	a few treats
Squash	custard
Body spray	shampoo
Toothpaste	fun sized snacks

Plumbing & Heating Specialists

Heating

- Boiler Maintenance, Repairs and Installations
- Landlord Gas Certificates
- Radiator Installation
- Gas, LPG and Oil Systems
- Thermostat and Smart Control Installation
- Power Flushing and Heating Cleanse

Plumbing

- Tap Repairs and Installation
- General Plumbing
- Bathroom Installation
- Water Leak Investigation and Repair
- Shower Installation
- Unvented Cylinder Maintenance, Repairs and Installation



Call: 01785 241135

Email admin@parsons-plumbing.co.uk

Parsons Plumbing & Heating Ltd, Unit 3 Baswich Business Park,
Tilcon Avenue, Stafford, ST18 0YL

Saturday Morning Coffee Concerts at St Mary's



August 9th Jill Crossland (piano)

Sep 13th Harry Hitchen (organ)

Sep 20th St. Mary's Miscellany –
supporting Macmillan Coffee Morning

All concerts begin at 11:00am

Doors open 10:30am when tea and coffee will be available
All are welcome Admission free but donations very welcome!



Tuesday 16 September 2025

An English Idyll **Arts and Crafts gardens from Allingham to Lutyens**

Lecturer Anne Anderson

Helen Allingham painted idyllic images of cottage gardens using mothers and children to add scale and sentiment. During the Edwardian period interest shifted away to the restoration garden and the arts and crafts garden. Lutyens and Jekyll blended aspects of both.

Venue is Stafford Gatehouse Theatre at 1.45pm.

Membership for the year starting on April 1st costs just £60 for 10 lectures.
Guest attendance fee is £10

For more information please see our website: www.theartssocietystafford.org.uk

William Emery & Sons



A Family Tradition
Established 1890

24 Hour Service

Tel: 01785 251205

The Laurels
13 County Road
Stafford
ST16 2PU



Independent Family Funeral Directors

www.emerys.co.uk

Friends of Saint Mary's



Jackie Oates with Mike Cosgrave



We were very pleased that the concert we sponsored during the St Mary's Food for the Journey Festival this year was again a big success.

The audience loved the music and as Jackie has roots in Stafford and is well known here it made for a great atmosphere.

Christmas Tree Festival—sorry!

Sorry to mention this so early, but we have the dates now for this year's Christmas Tree Festival, Wednesday 3rd December to Tuesday 9th December.

We have started collecting good quality bric-a-brac for our stall so if you have any items you'd like to donate just let us know. Alternatively you could take them to the Parish Office for us to collect.

The AGM of the Friends of St Mary's
will be on Tuesday 14th October at 2pm in St Mary's Church

Well done Ian!

Congratulations Ian Carr, churchwarden of St Chad's on completing your Moonlight Walk raising money for Douglas Macmillan Hospice.



Happy Birthday Sue!

Sue Davis, who does most of the wonderful flower arrangements in St Mary's, celebrated a special birthday recently.



We hope you had a happy birthday Sue and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the beautiful creations.

R N Clarke

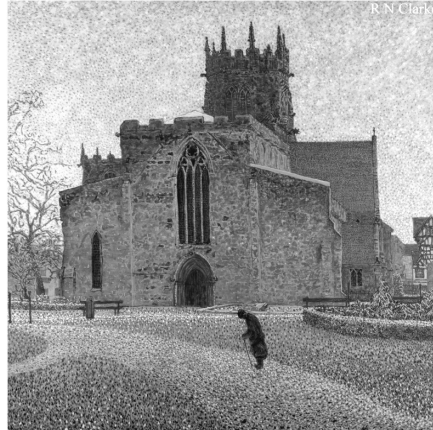
Paintings, drawings and
watercolours of
R N Clarke

Gallery address

R N Clarke Fine Art
Suite No1, St Mary's Mews,
St Mary's Place,
Stafford ST16 2AP

The Gallery is **Open by Appointment**
please telephone 07874 708372
or email
richard.n.clarke@outlook.com

The Gallery also holds occasional
Open Days



You're invited



Lawyers for your Lifetime

Wills, probate and inheritance tax - Elderly client issues
Company and commercial law - Agriculture
Property - Family law - Employment
Accident and injury matters
Litigation and disputes
Inheritance claims
Debt recovery

Hand Morgan & Owen Solicitors

Est.1730 - www.hmo.co.uk

STAFFORD
17 Martin Street - 01785 211 411

RUGELEY
3 Albion Street - 01889 583 871



The Julian Meetings

Sheila Young

You may have noticed 'Julian Meeting' on the list of contacts at the end of Centrepiece and wondered what it was, in fact Dee asked me if it still existed. Indeed it does!

The Julian Meetings are a network of like-minded people fostering contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition. The name is taken from Julian of Norwich.

Yes, we can pray silently on our own but there is something very powerful in experiencing this together with others.

When we gather we sit upright, comfortably letting go of tensions, relaxed, but alert and aware.

Each meeting begins with an appropriate reading either from scripture or a poem or from a spiritual writing. Sometimes meditative music is played leading into silence. It can help to use a mantra, a word or phrase, perhaps from the reading just heard, or for example, 'Be still and know that I am God'.

When the mind wanders, as it will, bring it back into focus using the mantra to expel the thoughts that inevitably come rushing in. The silence is usually held for half an hour, then music, another reading and a prayer end the meeting.

The Stafford Julian Meeting gathers on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10.30am at the Quaker Meeting House in Foregate Street. We come from a range of different denominations, the Quakers kindly offering us hospitality. For more information see the notice board in the North Transept or speak to Sheila Young.

Calling all bookworms!

If you need to stock up on your summer reading material, head to St Chad's Church on Saturday 9th August. They will have lots of books for sale, sorted by author so you can find your favourites, plus a non fiction section too.

Most books only 50p or £1.

Doors open 10.30am



Electrician Service with a smile



- Extra sockets, security lighting
- Replacement showers
 - Consumer Unit upgrades
- Landlord and home buyers' reports (EICR)

Fully qualified and accredited, inc part P.

AWARD Electrical

07737 187014

awardelectrical@gmail.com

GEOFF WHEAT



CARPENTER, JOINER, GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Loft Ladders
Door hanging
Wood Flooring
Stairs Re-styled
Glazed Wall Tiling
Flat-pack Construction
UPVC Cladding
Security Locks
Glass Replacement
Coving

Tel: 01785 242882

Mobile: 07946 304598

Estimates with Pleasure



NEW AGE CARE HOURLY CARE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Stay in your own home
and get all the support you need

We offer packages tailored to your individual wishes and needs. Delivered by highly trained carers who are friendly, caring and compassionate.

We care for everyone, from 18 to 118 years!

**HOURLY CARE NOW AVAILABLE
IN STAFFORD AND SURROUNDING AREAS.
LIVE-IN CARE IS AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE.**

CALL US FREE ON
0808 808 5000
www.newagecare.co.uk

OUR CARER'S CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- ♥ PERSONAL CARE
- ♥ DOMESTIC TASKS
- ♥ SUPPORT WITH APPOINTMENTS
- ♥ ADMINISTERING MEDICATION
- ♥ HOLIDAY COMPANIONSHIP
- ♥ SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
- ♥ PET CARE & WALKS

**SUPER
COMPETITIVE
RATES & FREE
ASSESSMENT**

Redefining Rest

Helen Scheven

Apparently, Summer = Rest and relaxation. Two things most of us need more of. As we enjoy the blue skies and sunshine (obviously alongside the very British moaning about the weather, “it’s a bit hot isn’t it!”) many people start thinking about holidays.

My experience is that holidays don’t necessarily equate to rest and/or relaxation! Whether it’s the anxiety of travelling, the cost, the kids (no we’re not nearly there yet!) or simply the fact that even on holiday there’s so much to do!

There is a wealth of information ‘out there’ that stresses the importance of rest and relaxation for our mental and physical wellbeing, and Jesus said we would find rest with him (Mt 11v28). But that’s not always the easiest. I believe that Jesus was quite a fan of wellbeing – he wanted us to be ourselves, not strive to be someone we’re not and he stressed the importance of resting.

I recently read an email that reminded me of the importance of looking after our own wellbeing and a specific line hit me “We are our own responsibility after all”. The article continued by suggesting that if we don’t look after our own wellbeing then our ability to truly embrace who we are, and to live that out, will reduce.

There is truth in this. Jesus commented that everything rests (excuse the pun!) on two things – Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself (Mt 22:37-39). If we focus on the last bit of that I believe it means that we need to be able to love ourselves – who we are – and to pay attention to how we look after ourselves; we need holistic rest (mental, physical, emotional, spiritual). Only then are we able to serve and love others.

Rest looks different for everyone, it’s not just about stopping and sitting quietly (although that can be good), to me it’s something that gives you chance to put aside work/life etc for a few minutes and focus on something that feeds your soul. This could be nature, exercise, art, coffee with friends, dancing, computer games etc etc.

For many of us the summer doesn’t automatically equal holiday, rest and relaxation. Life goes on; churches have summer fetes and regular services need to function with various people on holiday; kids are off school and after two days are bored and searching for things to do – often whilst parents and carers are trying to juggle who has the kids whilst they try and juggle work! So yes, rest and relaxation can be a tall order to reach.

Jesus doesn’t ask us to be perfect though (phew!) - he simply nudges us to find small nuggets here and there where we can rest – in whatever way helps us.

The Soup Kitchen



This beautiful 16th Century eating house offers the ideal place to meet your friends and is described in The Times as "Stafford's hidden gem". Visitors from all over the world regularly return and comment 'there is nowhere else that compares in atmosphere, traditional old-fashioned service and genuine warm welcome which is unique to Stafford's Soup Kitchen.

Church Lane Antiques



A wide selection of antiques for sale, including furniture, pictures, pottery, glass, silver and jewellery.

We are always interested in buying; from single items to house clearance.

32 Mill Street
Stafford ST16 2AW

Tel: 07770 870140 or 07795 023857

Email: lizlyd@googlemail.com

Open Friday & Saturday
10am-4pm

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. Mary's

Churchwardens.....Sue Savage.....
Paul Milgate-Scarrott
Bellringers Selwyn Jones..... 242116

One World Group.....Pauline Roycroft .. 244556

Julian Meeting.....Sheila Young..... 252023

Director of Music.....Margaret Outen....253182
Email: margaretouten@hotmail.co.uk
Planned Giving Secretary....Chris Bown 229192
..... Email: chrisbown@btinternet.com

St. Chad's

Churchwardens.....Ian Carr.....07714913079
Gary Webster

St. Leonard's

ChurchwardenGail Wray01889 271176

WEBSITES:



Website for StaffordChurches: www.staffordchurches.uk
St Mary's Website: www.stmarysstafford.org.uk
St. Chad's Website: www.stchadsstafford.co.uk
Why not follow us on Twitter? @staffordchurch
Facebook: staffordchurches.uk

MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Steve and Dee TurnerTelephone 01785 229437
Email steveanddeeturner@yahoo.co.uk



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Dee Turner01785 229437
Email: friendsofstmary@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofstmary



A Selection of photos from the Food for the Journey Festival

Photos by Paul Milgate-Scarrott



Contributions to Centrepiece:

If you would like to advertise an event, comment on one you have attended or just share something interesting with us– then please do so.

Email us at: steveanddeeturner@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline is about 10 days before the first Sunday of the month.