

St Mary's Newsletter

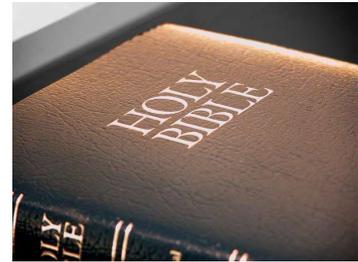
12th February 2026



Sunday Services

Sunday 15th February

8.30 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 Morning Worship with All Stars ****GUEST PREACHER****
No 4pm service



Sunday 22nd February

10.30 Parish Communion with Commissioning of our Worship Team

Discipleship

Do you like worship? Do you like free events? If so, read on as this might be for you!

We are planning to take a group from St Mary's Greenham to a New Wine Worship Night in Salisbury. This is a FREE event for anyone who loves live worship and wants to experience a New Wine-style worship service led by the same team who lead at the New Wine summer festival. Expect an evening of great music, but more importantly a chance to seek the presence of the Holy Spirit through worship.

Saturday 21st March

7.30pm to 9.15pm (excluding travel time there and back)

Open to anyone (under 18s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)

It's FREE!



If you are interested, please see Becca after church during February, or email her rebecca@stmarysgreenham.org. Tickets tend to go fast so if you want to come please let Becca know as soon as possible - once they're gone, they're gone. We also need volunteers to drive - if you are willing and able to serve others in this way please let Becca know.

Local Community

The Watermill Theatre is running a FREE 5-week drama course at Greenham Community Centre for young people aged 12–17. It's a great opportunity for local young people to be creative, develop new skills, and have fun in a supportive environment.



Lent and Easter



This year we are thinking about Journeys. Lent and Easter are all part of the same journey. There is a moment where Jesus turns towards Jerusalem and begins his journey to the cross and through death to resurrection and new life. Lent and Easter are our opportunity to accompany Jesus or to have Jesus accompany us on a spiritual journey of our own. Therefore, I encourage you to start well and to do the whole journey, I promise it has such meaning for us all as individuals and a community when we go the whole way together.

Shrove Tuesday (17th February)

We are planning a Pancake Party – there will be a sign up sheet this Sunday (8th Feb)

Ash Wednesday (18th February)

Ashing service at 6.30pm

Come and find out why this is a great way to begin the journey. Everyone is welcome regardless of your age and stage of faith. **Especially if you don't know what this is all about.**

Lent Group – Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Paddock Room

Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

Holy Communion with foot washing at 7pm.

Gail will strip the altar after this service, everyone is welcome to help and to stay for a period of quiet reflection.

Good Friday (3rd April)

Hour at the Cross 2pm.

A quiet, meditative service as we wait with Jesus. If you can't make it to church or quiet will be tricky there will be resources to use at home.

Holy Saturday (4th April)

Prayer Spaces in church 10am – 4pm (self guided)

An opportunity to reflect in various ways

Easter Vigil 8pm

We gather after dark to read scripture together and remind ourselves of the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in anticipation of what is to come. Everybody is welcome to this atmospheric service.

Easter Sunday

Dawn Service at Greenham Control Tower 6am (exact time to be confirmed)

Come and celebrate the return of light and life and hope to the world. There will be fire.

Celebration Communion 10.30am

A joyful celebration of resurrection and eternal life

Prayer for our church community

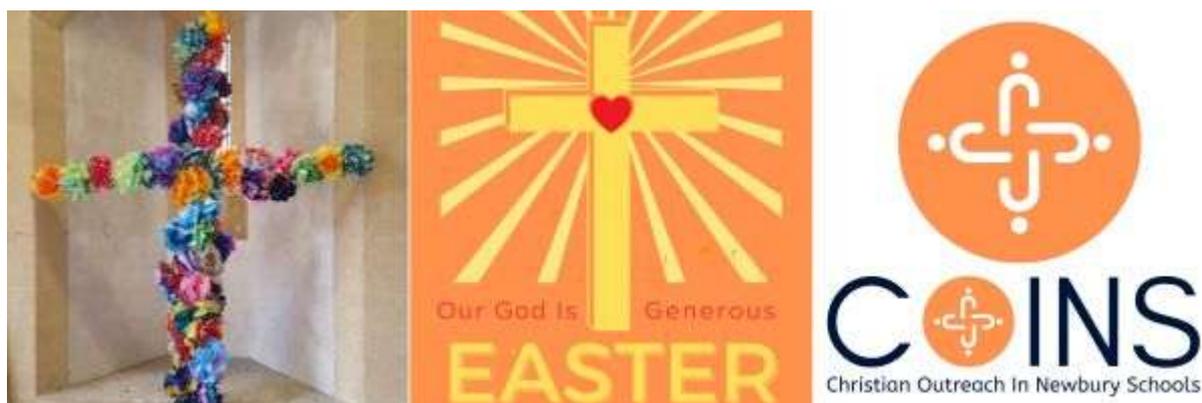
This is a prayer that I pray every day, please do use it when you pray for our church. I encourage you also to pray for specific things that you feel we need.

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Faith in Action

COINS (Christian Outreach In Newbury Schools) are hosting the children from Year 6 at Willows Primary School to an event called Easter Eggsplored. It's here at St Mary's on Friday 20th March in the afternoon (12.30 – 3.30). They need some additional volunteers – is that you? Please do get in touch with them directly hello@coinsnewbury.org or speak to Gail.

If you would like to help but can't make that date there are plenty of other dates at other churches with other schools so do get in touch; it's God's work and is also amazing fun.



Family News and Events

Pat Simons Funeral is on Friday 20th February at 1pm. The service is for **immediate family only**. Please keep Chris and all Pat's family in your prayers. If you would find it helpful to pray with others there will be a prayer meeting in church from 12.45 on Friday.

Men's Group

Meets on **21st February** in the Paddock Room for coffee and a conversation about the Greenham Railway. 9.30 – 11ish. Chat to Tony for more details tony@stmarysgreenham.org



Greenham's Got Talent



Polish your tap shoes, oil the ventriloquist dummies and charge up those magic wands – the Talent Show is on **28th February** and Chris Smith has the signup sheet ready and waiting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - 19th April after the 10.30 service.

This is the meeting where we celebrate our church and everything we've been up to. It's also the meeting when we elect the new members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who oversee the work of St Mary's, including making sure we fulfil all our legal responsibilities.

This is an exciting time to be part of the PCC as we make plans for the next part of story.

Please pray about whether you feel God is calling you to **be part of the PCC**. We need representatives from every part of our church family – old and young, confident and quiet, new and of long-standing. All that is required is a desire to do God's work in this way and that you are aged 16 or over, take communion and have been on the Electoral Roll for at least 6 months prior to the APCM. You are usually elected for a term of 3 years. You will be required to complete Safeguarding Training but we can help you with that.

We have 5 vacancies – 3 to be part of the PCC and 2 to also sit on Deanery Synod (the next level up of governance – see me if you are really interested). Please chat to me, to Brian, or to anyone who is on PCC for more information.

We will also need a new **Parish Safeguarding Officer**. Liz Jones has carried out this work for the past few years and will happily talk to you about what is involved. A strong pastoral heart and sense of justice are vital for this work. Full support and training are available for this vital part of God's work in caring for the most vulnerable members of God's family.

Reading

When you sit to read this, why not ask God to fill your home, or school, or place of work and bring peace, joy, or whatever you feel is needed in that place.

Exodus 40:32-38

When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed; as the Lord had commanded Moses. He set up the court around the tabernacle and the altar and put up the screen at the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.