

May 2026 Edition 123

*"Whoever welcomes one of these little children
in my name welcomes me."* Mark 9 v 37

GOOD FRIDAY EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP

Why hold this event on Good Friday?

A morning involving family fun together creating Easter crafts to take home, including small Easter eggs.

Will they remember it as being a special day?

I think they will and they will want to come back!

But it's the most sacred day in the Christian year! I wonder if this thought crossed your mind.



Well, it was a morning full of happy families enjoying our hospitality and time together. But there was a purpose of course. We were able to show that St Mary's is a church that supports and cares about people and the happiness of the community. This was particularly evident with the conversations we were able to share with the parents while the children were able to create some wonderful Easter crafts to take home.

The crafts were varied, including icing cakes and biscuits, Easter wreaths, air dry clay modelling, lots of bunnies, Easter bonnets, and new life themes with beautiful butterflies, baby lamb collage, bouncy chicks and many more.

We also included a beautiful Easter tree, which is very symbolic for Easter.



The children and parents were invited to think about a message or prayer they wanted to hang on the tree which would be taken into church on Easter Day.

The budding twig of the Easter Tree and the hanging shaped cards are very symbolic of the Easter story. The buds on the twig represent new life, the twig itself comes from a tree, and the wooden cross on which Jesus was crucified came from a tree. The shaped cards they could choose to write their message, were a cross, an

egg shape representing the stone at the tomb, and a heart reminding us that God is love and Jesus told us to love one another.

It was an opportunity for parents to talk with their children about Easter and linked beautifully with the Easter garden which was beautifully created by the older children while the other children made mini flower arrangements to take home as a gift.



The feedback from the parents was overwhelming and the feeling of support and love in the hall on Good Friday was very special and I feel sure that if anyone felt they needed friendship or support would know that we are here to show that we care.



Legacies



A few weeks ago I visited my solicitor to sign a new will. I had been meaning to make a new one for a long time but never seemed to get round to it. The previous will was drawn up in 2005, two years before my wife passed away. The changes I wanted to make were not great

and probably could have been effected through the addition of codicils. However, I was advised that if there are changes to a will it is better to draw up a new one rather than have a number of amendments to the existing one. There were a few reasons why I wanted a new will, including changes to my own circumstances over time and the wish to include some additional legacies.

The previous will was made before I was a regular worshiper at St Mary's and one of the things I wanted to do was to add a legacy for the church in recognition of the important part it plays in my life and worship.

You may be interested to know that if you leave at least 10% of your net estate to a charity or charities you will reduce your inheritance tax rate from 40% to 36%. St Mary's is a registered charity and legacies left to it qualify for this concession. A lot of us assume that inheritance tax will not apply because we haven't got much in the way of savings. However, if we are lucky enough to own a home without a mortgage it is probable that its value is above the inheritance tax-free level.

You will recall that in my recent article for The Listening Post, updating you on the 2025 financial position, I mentioned that we received £10,000 in legacies last year. Since I became Treasurer in 2013, we have received just under £200,000 in legacies. These have greatly helped with our sustainability and served as a wonderful reminder of dear friends who worshipped with us here at St Mary's.

Finally, whatever you want to happen to your estate when you pass, I would urge you to make a will, if you haven't already done so. Without a will, your estate will be distributed according to the laws of Intestacy, which are unlikely to accord with your wishes. When you make or amend your will please also consider leaving something to the church. This will help to ensure our worship and work here continues into the future.

David Eames, Treasurer

May Services and Events

Sunday 3	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Sung Communion
Wednesday 6	10.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Saturday 9	19.30	Kingston & Malden Scout & Guide Band
Sunday 10	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Sung Communion
Monday 11	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Thursday 14	20.00	Ascension Day Sung Communion
Saturday 16	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
	19.30	Pub Singalong Evening in Cuddington Hall
Sunday 17	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
	11.00	Annual Church Meetings in Church
Thursday 21	14.30	Thursday Club in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 24	09.30	Pentecost Family Service
Sunday 31	09.30	Sung Communion

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am

Everyone is very welcome