

News from Sydenham

Harvest Festival

The altar was groaning under the weight of the Harvest donations at our recent service. It was a lovely Harvest Festival led by Joan who had, along with Nick Oakley rallied our younger villagers to read poems and help with the collection whilst the congregation offered gifts from the land (and their cupboards!) . The hymns were as ever enthusiastically sung, the flowers bloomed and fruit pies and home pressed apple juice were enjoyed by all.

Ride and Stride

St Mary's took part in the Ride & Stride on Saturday 13th September. We were once again indebted to villager Eleanor Church who organised our participation as well as a band of loyal helpers. How brilliant that Stanley Bradley, one of the younger volunteers, was willing to do a stint but also making full use of the opportunity to do some homework in-between meeting and greeting the Riders and Striders! Unfortunately the weather was against us with torrential down pours but never let that deter the hardy! We did have some visitors who were grateful for the shelter and refreshments.

Hymns and Pimms

Fuelled by Pimms (or delicious locally pressed apple juice) St Mary's welcomed visitors from across the United Parish to our service with a difference at the end of August. Led by Rector Jacky the programme involved lots of singing to get those happy genes racing, a great deal of chat and harmony and a lovely coming together of the United Parish folk. Chris Hood not only played with gusto through no less than 8 hymns whilst the choir led the singing but also read the lesson with thespian qualities shining through. Thanks to everyone who came along but also helped.

St Mary's Choir outing - all are welcome!

St Mary's Choir have for over 11 years organised an annual 'Choir Practice on Tour'. Venues have included Dorchester Abbey, Rycote Chapel, St Bartholomew at Brightwell Baldwin, St Mary the Virgin at Ewelme, St Helen's in Benson, St Botolph's at Swyncombe, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Crowell, and St Mary's Church at Adwell . We get around!! This year we will be visiting St Andrew's Church, Chinnor on **Tuesday 25th November at 6pm**. All are welcome to come along and listen to our informal practice / concert lasting for approximately 45 minutes where we will be singing part of our Christmas programme.

St Mary's has refurbished windows .

Considering that the structure of St Mary's has stood for over 900 years it is not surprising that constant repairs are required. The windows under the expert and specialist attention of Steve Bowman enjoyed a refurbishment with glass being replaced and frames renewed and painted. We thank the Fayre committee for their contribution towards the work



Take a break, take a big piece of cake. Delicious cakes, coffee and teas are all on offer at the monthly coffee mornings between 10am and noon in the OSR where good chats are had and feelings of fellowship are high .Next one is on the 9th October and then a big one with super raffle prizes on November 13th to raise money for MacMillan.

The Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6th December – 12 – 2pm

Soup and crusty bread, festive stalls and games, amazing auction and raffle prizes – something for all the family. We would love to see you. Do come along.

Carol Service

Sunday, 14th December - 4pm

Come to our lovely traditional candlelit service. Seven lessons and favourite carols with a welcoming mince pie and sherry or cordial.

Crib Service

Sunday 24th December - 4pm

Our popular family service is always a favourite! Sing your favourite carols and help find the crib figures.

Midnight Mass

Sunday 24th December – 10pm

Enjoy a quieter reflective time before the big day.

Dates for Santa's sleigh and Carols round the trees on the Green – to be confirmed.