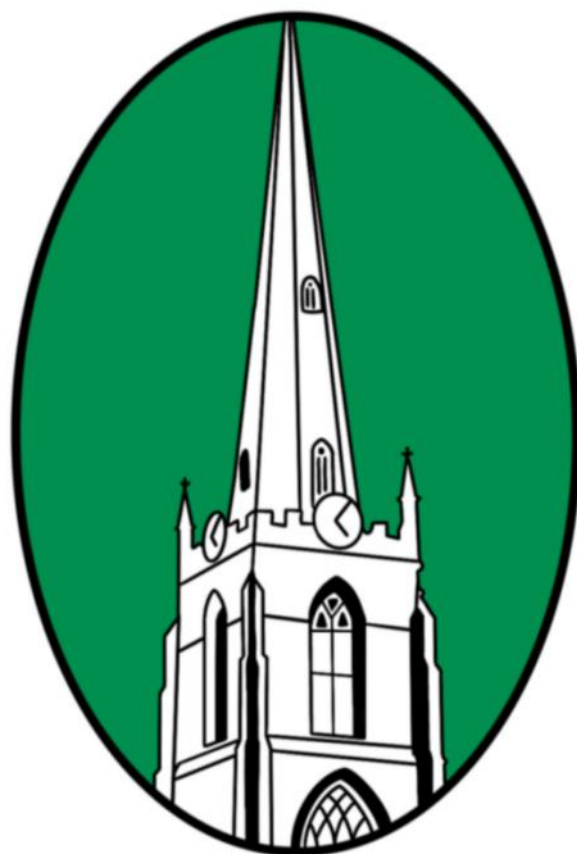


Issue 1

Summer 2023

Spotlight

St. Mary's with St. Francis



Proudly Sponsored and Printed by:

G Seller[®]
Our Family Caring For Your Family

Contents

3. Contacts
4. Diary
5. Getting To Know: Ian Hill *with Elisabeth Emmett-Pace*
7. In The Garden *with Kerry Alesbrook*
8. A Musical Note *with Sarah Hill*
9. St Mary's Social News *with Liz Seal*
10. St Mary's School
12. Wordsearch
13. Summer Recipe *with Janet Mayo*
14. Summer Colouring *with Kai Rosalia*
16. Crafty Corner
17. Caption Competition
18. Embracing The Heat *with Mat Cobb*
20. Spotlight On Mental Health: Anxiety *with Sarah Hill*
21. Journey In Faith, A Poem *by Matilde De Sousa Fernandes*
22. Charity Focus - Christian Aid *with Anthony Thacker*
23. Going Deeper *with Ian Hill*
24. Children's Work *with Bev Frettsome*
26. St Francis Centre News

Hello!

Welcome to Spotlight, the new magazine from St Mary's Church.

We hope you enjoy what we've put together for you.

We're intending to produce Spotlight four times a year,
with a variety of regular and one-off features,
news, activities, competitions and information.

The centre page is designed for you to pull out with a delicious
summer soup recipe, a craft activity for the home or garden and
a colouring sheet for all ages for a moment of mindfulness.

This first edition has a loose theme of ecology and the natural
world running through a number of the articles.

If there is more you would like to see please do get in touch via
spotlightstmarys@gmail.com

Let us know what you think and happy reading,
Sarah Hill & Elisabeth Emmett-Pace.

Contacts ...

Church Website:	www.stmaryshinckley.co.uk
Church Facebook:	St Mary's with St Francis, Hinckley
Church Office:	01455 234241 office@stmaryshinckley.co.uk
Vicar: Ian Hill	01455 617447 vicar.stmaryshinckley@gmail.com
Churchwardens: Liz Seal	07824 714125 liz@stmaryshinckley.co.uk
Peter Harris	07792 863668 peter@stmaryshinckley.co.uk
Children & Families Worker: Bev Frettsome	07973 830668 bevfrettsome@hotmail.com
Church Organist: Peter Harris	07792 863668 peter@stmaryshinckley.co.uk
St Francis Community Centre:	01455 617185 adminsfcc@stfranciscom.co.uk
Spotlight Magazine:	spotlightstmarys@gmail.com

Dates For Your Diary ...

Sunday Services:

8am BCP Communion

10.15am All Age Service with Sunday School
(2nd & 4th with communion, 1st, 3rd & 5th without)

6pm Evening Service
(1st and 3rd with communion, 2nd, 4th & 5th without)

Monday-Saturday 10am-1pm:

Open Church - Coffee Bar, Books, Private Prayer

Tuesday Communion 10.30am:

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Lady Chapel in church

Tuesday Prayer Meeting 10.30am from June:

1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday of each month in the Lady Chapel in church

Allsorts Baby & Toddler Group 1.30-2.45pm:

In the church hall, term time only, £1 Donation - contact Bev Frettsome

St Mary's Choir Practice - Fridays 7.30-8.30pm:

In church, new members always welcome - contact Peter Harris

Country Market - Fridays 10am-12pm

In church - local produce & homemade items available

Local Crafters Pop-Up Market - Sat 22nd July & 23rd Sept 10-3pm:

In church - enquiries - localcrafterspoupupmarket@outlook.com

Lego Swap & HDPP Photo Scanning - 3rd Sat Monthly 10-12pm:

In church - See newsletter for more details

Saturday 10th June at 3pm - Afternoon Tea with Entertainment

Including drawing of 'Spring Roof' raffle - In church

Saturday 24th June 10am-2pm - Table Top Sale

In church - £10 a table (contact church office) - Free entry for buyers

Saturday 24th June 3pm - Social Stroll

Meet at the Lime Kilns Pub on the A5

Sunday 9th July 12pm - BBQ & activities for Soap Box Derby Day

Tuesday 15th August - St Mary's Patronal Festival

Evening Celebratory Service with Bishop Saju

See weekly church newsletter, church website and church Facebook page for more information on 'What's Going on'!

Getting To Know You: Ian Hill ... Elisabeth Emmett-Pace

Who are you and where are you from?

I was born in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. I've been married to Sarah for 19 years, with a daughter, a dog and a cat at home. I studied maths at the University of Kent, Canterbury. I trained for ministry at Wycliffe Hall Evangelical Theological College, Oxford University.



What did you do before you became a Vicar?

I worked at the Home Office measuring crime and fire statistics and then at the Office for National Statistics measuring the economy. I was head of the branch responsible for calculating and publishing statistics of non-financial company profitability and finance, UK share ownership and UK net worth. When I relaunched the UK net worth statistics it went viral (before that was a thing!) and I was quoted in the press on every continent except Antarctica!

What makes you 'you'?

I was diagnosed with dyspraxia when I studied at Oxford University, which means I'm neurodiverse. I can't visualise things and I struggle with dexterity. However, it helps me see things from a very different perspective and causes me to constantly question the 'status quo', it's part of the reason for my journey from 'traditional beliefs' to bible based full inclusivity. I love to study the Bible and understand what it said to it's original audiences, and what it says to us today.

Why did you decide to become a Vicar?

I had a really strong calling from God that I was unable to resist. It's ok to wrestle with the call like Jacob but give in before he dislocates your hip! (Genesis 32:22-32).

What brought you to Hinckley?

A strong calling to St Mary's church, who were seeking a Biblical foundation for being a church of love and full inclusivity (gender, sexuality, disability, race, culture, class, any other label and non!)

What is your hope for St Mary's?

To be such a place of love, welcome and acceptance that when we tell people the good news about who Jesus really is they will be intrigued, come to question and find out more, join us in worship and find a living relationship with the God who loves them so much that he died for them.

What makes you happy?

Seeing people build each other up, encourage each other and see the best in each other.

What makes you angry?

Injustice, discrimination and prejudice that causes harm to others.

What's on your un-bucket list?

I never want to go bungee jumping – abseiling from a high water tower for charity was enough!

What piece of music and book would you take to a desert island?

Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell because I want to be gone when the morning comes! The complete works of Terry Pratchett then I might have time to read the final few!

What hobbies do you have?

I like studying the history of railways. I have a large collection of railway memorabilia – much to Sarah's frustration! I also like growing carnivorous plants, jive dancing and photography if I ever get the time!

Who would you like to be locked in a church with?

Desmond Tutu, former Archbishop of South Africa, an awesome theologian and man of God, instrumental in bringing down Apartheid and supporter of LGBT rights. He said "If I go up to heaven and find a homophobic God, I will tell him I prefer the other place". I'm happy to go where he goes!

Who are your Bible Heroes?

The disciple Barnabus for his ministry of encouragement, and the apostle John for all his writings pointing us towards God's love.

Who do you think we should interview next?

Peter Harris, organist extraordinaire and church warden!

In The Garden ... Kerry Alesbrook

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One's closer to God's heart in a garden,
Than anywhere else on Earth.*

It is April, and I stand in my greenhouse with the gentle sound of rain falling onto the glass. The air is warm, and the smell of the damp earth is comforting. I am watering my sweet pea seedlings. Last autumn, I collected the seeds from the final few flowers of summer, dried them in the sunshine, put them in an envelope and pinned them to the noticeboard. Autumn turned to winter, with it's dark nights and cold days, and while there were spells of crisp sunshine and Christmas blessings, Winter can seem long and hard. Certainly my garden looked sad and bedraggled...but there is a reason for that. You see, I don't tidy the Autumn leaves, the last seed heads, the final flowers...because the garden is sleeping, and in it sleep the tiny things – the caterpillars and butterflies, hibernating grubs and bees, the slugs and snails. Slowly, as the days lengthen and warm, the sleeping creatures wake, as do the tiny shoots of green buried beneath the leaf litter. As the months move on, I begin to tidy, a small step at a time, letting the light onto the soil and the gently unfurling leaves. And now it is April, and the seeds that I collected and stored are showing new life, and Easter is upon us. I look forward to the Summer – the scent of the sweet peas and the warmth of the sun as I sit in the garden listening to the birds, the buzzing bees, and the sounds of my neighbours with their families around me. All of God's creation is reflected in my garden, and the message of hope and life everlasting is beautifully shown through the yearly cycles, reminding me that even when things seem dead and gone, the life is just there, waiting to be found again...



A Musical Note ... Sarah Hill

At your bidding there was beginning, at your summons this world was formed,

All things living brought into being by the power of your word.

You saw that it was good, you saw that it was good,

Help us give you thanks with the praise and awe we should.

For all your ways are good, yes all your ways are good;

God of all creation, all your ways are good.

In this garden that you have given, we were hungry for all its fruit,

So we plundered the earth and oceans, seizing more than we were due.

We stole from what was good, we stole from what was good,

Help us face the truth with the honesty we should.

As the planet longs for redemption, spoiled and reeling from nature's loss,

We remember the source of healing flowing out from Jesus' cross.

You came down for our good, you came down for our good,

Help us look to you with the hope and faith we should.

If we bow down and seek your mercy, will you hear us and still forgive?

Holy spirit, make us determined to reshape the way we live.

Restore all that is good, restore all that is good,

Help us change our hearts so we show the care we should.

Resound Worship: Doxecology - Alex & Tim Fergusson

I was listening to this song and was struck by how similar in many ways it is to the Nation's Favourite Hymn – *O Lord My God, When I in Awesome Wonder Consider all the Works Thy Hand Hath Made.*

They both start with the wonder of creation, how our amazing God brought all things into being, and that in turn nature displays God's power and glory. The choruses encourage us to respond to him in praise and worship.

Through verse two in the above song, our attention is brought to how we have impacted our beautiful and bounteous earth. Both songs then move on to what Jesus did for us, and all creation, on the cross – His death and resurrection purchasing our forgiveness and freedom and saving us from any fear of death with the hope of eternal life. Finally, we are brought to our response: how do we react when faced with all that God has created and all He has done to save that creation

(including ourselves) from our wilful destruction? Do we respond in humility, faith and adoration, or continue to take, plunder and ruin for our own gratification?

This new song may not become a classic to replace *O Lord My God* in the nation's heart, but it does remind us how God created us, and our world, good and glorious, and something worth saving. These themes span the centuries and come directly from the Bible which declares that if we stay silent even the rocks and the hills will proclaim God's glory. Next time you look 'from lofty mountain grandeur' or 'hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees' remember what Christ did for you and allow your soul to sing 'My God, how great Thou art!'



St Mary's Social News ... Liz Seal

I firmly believe that to build a stronger church family, we need to spend time together, getting to know each other, deepening our understanding and learning to appreciate our similarities as well as our differences.

To this end, we try to gather to enjoy some fun.... In April we held a Beetle Drive, in our church hall. For anyone who didn't come- this entails sitting round a table with 3 others, rolling a dice, drawing a beetle- with various parts being permitted with certain dice rolls (everyone hoping for a 6 to get started with the body!) Much shouting, not much skill needed, plenty of good humour.... And a chip shop tea.... What a laugh! The room was filled with friends, across the generations, everyone met someone they'd not spoken to before and everyone said they had a good time.

We're also meeting from time to time to enjoy a 'social stroll'... just a gentle walk in our beautiful town and countryside, with the chance to have a chat along the way. If there happens to be a coffee stop or even a pub along the way, that just adds to the opportunities to spend time together.

As a church community, any new ideas are always welcome, and extra hands to get things off the ground and organised will never be turned away, so if you have an idea – please come and talk to us- let's spread the word of God's love to us by being together, sharing and learning, taking the time to be a family.

St Mary's School



'With God All Things
Are Possible'



Dear God

Trusting God is wisdom

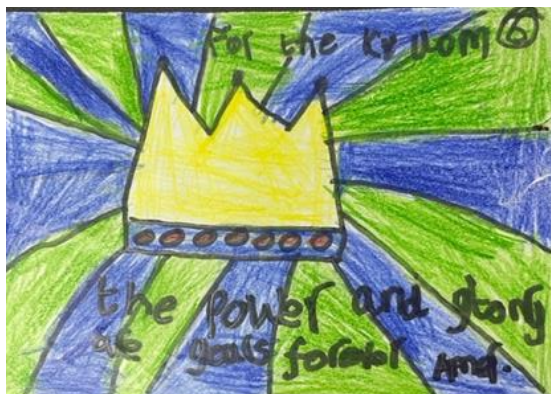
Knowing God is peace

Loving God is strength

Faith in God is courage

Amen.

Freya Ringrose, Y5



'Dream, Believe,
Achieve!'

Wordsearch - 'The Parable Of The Sower' ... Ian Hill

Find all the words below.

Then use the remaining letters to spell out a phrase.

C	H	O	K	E	D	L	O	F	Y	T	R	I	H	T
H	S	O	W	P	E	J	F	R	G	R	O	U	N	D
S	C	A	T	T	E	R	I	N	G	U	N	T	F	D
I	O	I	Y	S	S	R	E	T	F	D	O	U	A	E
X	R	M	U	I	G	L	S	M	R	O	C	K	L	C
T	C	S	E	O	N	E	A	E	R	R	L	E	L	E
Y	H	R	O	O	L	G	D	P	C	A	U	U	A	I
F	E	D	A	B	N	F	Y	R	E	U	F	S	W	T
O	D	E	A	E	O	E	T	O	V	T	T	E	A	F
L	P	R	S	L	H	L	H	D	I	S	I	I	Y	U
D	A	E	D	P	O	L	O	U	E	O	U	R	O	L
P	T	H	R	O	U	I	R	C	C	I	R	R	R	N
O	H	T	I	E	L	F	N	E	E	L	F	O	I	E
R	V	A	B	P	N	E	S	D	R	R	E	W	O	S
C	E	G	S	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	S

Birds

Fall away

Gathered

Hundredfold

Path

Receive

Scattering

Soil

Thorns

Choked

Farmer

Good

Jesus

People

Rock

Scorched

Someone

Understands

Crop

Fell

Ground

Life

Persecution

Root

Seed

Sower

Unfruitful

Deceitfulness

Fruitful

Hear

Parables

Produced

Saying

Sixtyfold

Thirtyfold

Worries

Bible reference Matthew 13:18-23

Summer Soup ... Janet Mayo

A summer recipe that will surprise some guests when you tell them what it is. A lovely way to use up lettuce or other salad leaves including spinach and watercress that might otherwise go to waste; it can be served hot or chilled.

Ingredients:

75g butter
6 spring onions (finely sliced including the green bits)
or 1 onion finely chopped
1 garlic clove chopped
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon coriander
350g potatoes, diced
1 small lettuce approx. 300g, washed and shredded.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ medium cucumber with peel left on, chopped
850ml vegetable or chicken stock
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper

To Serve:

2-3 tbsp single or double cream
Freshly chopped chives, parsley or dill

Method:

In a large saucepan melt the butter gently. Lower the heat and then add the spring onions and garlic, stirring until softened. Add the coriander and stir.
Add the potatoes, lettuce and cucumber and keeping the heat very low, put a lid on the pan and sweat for 10 minutes.
Pour in the stock, stir, add salt and pepper and bring to the boil.
Reduce the heat to low, cover with a lid and allow to simmer gently for 20 minutes.
Turn off the heat and allow the soup to cool a little.
Blitz in batches in a blender to create a puree.
Check the seasoning and, if serving hot, gently re-heat the soup and serve with a swirl of cream and garnish with freshly chopped chives, parsley or dill.
If serving chilled, leave the blended soup until it's cold then cover and chill in the fridge for 3-4 hours or overnight.





Kai Rosalia - 2023



Crafty Corner - Crochet Wind Spinner

Wind Spinner:

You will need: DK yarn in 3 colours, 4mm hook, needle to weave ends.

Note: all long tails should be at the same end!

Foundation: leaving a long tail and colour A chain [ch] 71 stitches (71).

Row 1: starting in 2nd chain from hook work 1 Treble [Tr] in each chain across (70), turn work.

Row 2: with colour B, 3 Ch and 2 Tr in first Tr of row 1, then work 3 Tr in each Tr to end (3ch + 209 Tr), turn work leaving long tail.

Row 3: with colour C, 3 Ch and 2 Tr in first Tr of R2, then work 3 Tr in each Tr to end (3ch + 626 Tr), leave long tail.

Make a tassel by tying all the long ends together in a knot.

Add a length of chain to form a loop or ties at the top.

Add bee or beads to the bottom to weigh it down.



Bumble Bee:

Yellow, Black & White yarns, 4mm hook.

Safety eyes, buttons or embroidery needle and thread.

Small amount of stuffing.

With yellow yarn make a magic ring.

R1: 6 double crochet [DC] into ring (6 stitches).

R2: 2 DC in each stitch (12).

R3: *DC in next st, 2 DC in following st* repeat 6 times (18).

R4&5: DC in each stitch (18), changing to black yarn in last st of row 5.

R6&7: DC in each stitch (18), change to yellow yarn.

R8-11: DC in each stitch (18) change to black yarn.

R12: DC in each stitch (18)

Insert or stitch eyes between rows 2 and 3 about 7 stitches apart.

Stuff bee and continue stuffing as you finish the body.

R13: *DC in next st, DC next 2 st together* repeat 6 times (12).

R14: DC next 2 st together 6 times (6).

R15: DC next 2 st together 3 times (3).

Fasten off leaving a long tail. Stuff firmly, weave remaining stitches and close up, weaving in the loose end.

Antennae - in black chain 6 stitches and knot end, sew into place.

Wings - in white make a magic ring. R1: 6 DC into ring. R2: 2DC into each stitch(12). Fold in half and attach to body along fold.

Caption Competition!

Send your answers to spotlightstmarys@gmail.com

We will publish the best ideas in the next issue!



Embracing The Heat ... Mat Cobb

As the summer heats up it's time to doff those winter warmers, and embrace the higher temperatures with a sense of fun! However, with ever-increasing news about climate change and environmental damage, it's no surprise many people experience eco-anxiety. (Charity group Save The Children reported "Climate anxiety is rising in children in the UK, with 70% worried about the world they will inherit, new research revealed in the run-up to COP27 (November 2022).")

But while such emotion is a normal and natural response, it's important to realize we can all make a difference, and there is hope. There are many ways to make a difference.

Reasons for hope

First and foremost, there are many positive movements making a difference. For example, the work environmental activists, scientists, and policymakers are doing to solve environmental problems.

As a science fiction literary subgenre and art movement, one such movement, known as Solarpunk, work to address how the future might look if humanity succeeded in solving major challenges with an emphasis on sustainability, and addressing climate change and pollution. This brings us to another topic, ecovillages.

The concept of ecovillages has been around for decades, but they've gained popularity recently as people have become more aware of the impact their lifestyles have on the planet. The Global Ecovillages Network lists nineteen such communities in the British Isles, and more than 1,000 around the world with numbers growing!

What we can do

Second, take action! For example, have you ever considered getting a compost bin, switching to using reusable bags, bottles and containers? Consider walking or biking instead of driving, reducing meat consumption, or decreasing water usage by fixing leaky taps. Additionally, support environmental organizations or get involved in local campaigns to make a difference in your community, which leads to our next point...

How others can help

Thirdly connect with others who feel the same. Join or start a local

environmental group or attend community events focused on environmental issues; participate in community clean-ups, plant a community garden, or organize a neighbourhood recycling programme. Building a community of like-minded individuals can help alleviate eco-anxiety and create a sense of camaraderie towards a shared goal of environmental protection.

Sustainability isn't just about individual actions - it's also about communities and organisations coming together to create a better future for our planet. And churches, in particular, can play a vital role in promoting environmentalism and sustainable practices.

How about starting a community garden on church grounds? Maybe organising a zero-waste pot luck dinner for the church? Challenge everyone to bring a dish that doesn't generate any waste - no single-use plastics, no disposable cutlery, no food waste. With a bit of creativity (and maybe some handy reusables), it can be a fun and delicious way to raise awareness about sustainability.

In Summary

Environmentalism and sustainability don't have to be dull and depressing. With a bit of creativity and a willingness to try new things, you can be a part of the movement towards an eco-friendlier future. And who knows, you might even have a bit of fun in the process.



Spotlight On Mental Health: Anxiety ... Sarah Hill

How are you feeling today? What thoughts are buzzing around your mind? Is there anything that's bothering you, worrying you, that won't leave you alone?

Sometimes our anxious thoughts can take over and feel like a swarm of midges buzzing around our heads, never leaving us alone, never giving us a moments peace. How do we cope with that swarm? I like to imagine a big sheet of sticky fly paper to catch all those thoughts on – by writing all those thoughts down we can look at each one individually, in our own time. We can organise them into those worries we have the power to do something about, and those that are completely out of our control and that no amount of worrying about will change.

For those we have power to change we can create an 'action plan' – I'll cut up that credit card, I'll work out a repayment plan, I'll visit the food bank.

For those outside our control we need to look at how we view that situation. Can we change our perspective? If it rains on my wedding day we will still be married. I can't change my boss's attitude, but maybe I can search for a way to bridge that gap in our relationship – I could commit to paying her a compliment each day to gradually change the dynamic, to look for something positive, to see her as a broken human being with her own hurts and issues too.

And what about those times when our worries become so overactive that it feels overwhelming? We feel like we can't breathe, heart beating faster, guts churning, palms sweating? Our brains are hard wired to find patterns, to notice that tiger creeping in the long grass that allows us to escape and live another day. In our modern world, there aren't that many tigers and so our brains perceive threats where maybe there are none. Our *Fight or Flight* response is triggered and adrenaline floods our body. It directs blood away from our guts (no point digesting food if we're about to be eaten), and pushes it towards our muscles (so we can run or fight). It raises our breathing and heart rate to get more oxygen to those muscles that are about to work hard, and makes us sweat to cool us down from all that exhaustion. Hyper-awareness of hearing and eyesight helps us spot other tigers lurking... In the absence of tigers this is useful when we're walking down a dark

alley at night being followed, but less useful in Tesco's at 3 in the afternoon!

Knowing what is happening during a panic attack helps us regain control. "That adrenaline won't last. It will calm down and I'll recover." Find a quiet spot and focus on slowing your breathing, list 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can touch, 2 things you can smell. This is called grounding.

Where is God in all this panic and anxiety?

He is walking alongside us, matching our footsteps, encouraging us to keep going, giving us his peace if we'll let him. We are not alone. We are loved. Anxiety is driven by fear but 'perfect love drives out fear.' (1 John 4:18) In the midst of the maelstrom call on him, and focus on his love and peace until the storm calms.



Journey In Faith - A Poem ... Matilde De Sousa Fernandes

Why? Different people, Different lives, Different paths.

Why? Together meet, Together walk, Together search.

Why? Our thoughts, Our doubts, Our questions.

Why? These needs, These feelings, These answers.

Why?...

Listen! Together in journey, Together stronger, Together growing.

Listen! How loud His calling. How much happiness. How much love!

Listen!

Just have faith! The call is for all of us.

Journey with Christ!

Christian Aid ... Anthony Thacker **(Chair of Hinckley & Burbage Christian Aid Group)**

My support for Christian Aid goes a long way back. I remember walking 28 miles, aged 13, to raise money in a local Council of Churches' sponsored Christian Aid annual walk. Starting at Kirby Muxloe we walked via Sapcote to Hinckley (where we had our lunch) and then home via the A47 (it was a different era!). This was the first time I had ever visited Hinckley! I continued to support Christian Aid in this way, as a teenager and later as a Minister, taking my children on our own sponsored walks (much shorter by then!) in Oadby. It proved a great time to talk with them about many things – including why we were doing this, and how Christian Aid helps combat world poverty by fostering development schemes in concert with local Christian groups in the respective countries.

This year, the major focus is on providing development support within Malawi, in the heart of Africa, providing positive strategies to help people thrive despite the harmful effects there of climate change (where interruptions to the regular rainfall can lead to droughts and crop failure – dangerous in subsistence farming). The schemes Christian Aid is enabling will help people to plant more drought-resistant seeds, to secure fairer prices for their crops and to build happier futures for their children.

This year's annual Christian Aid fayre at St Mary's raised over £570 on the day. These days, we also raise money in other ways, not just during Christian Aid week in May, but throughout the year, for example with our annual curry night, which also raises £600 - £1,000 each time. We have seen changes in secretary, treasurer and members of the committee, but throughout, I have been very glad for the strong, creative, and committed support I have received from this effective group. In turn, we are very glad to receive your support, the committed help of members of our churches. We also value innovative ideas, one of which was provided by our Roman Catholic priest, Fr Frank Daly, a dozen years ago, who adapted a work of T. S. Eliot for us members of the clergy to learn and perform in Hinckley Methodist Church! This was well supported, and raised about £450. Keep up your support in every way!



The Bible starts with these words: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” It then goes on to describe why God created this universe (for people in God’s image, that is with a spirit, and full of love). The Bible’s creation story is not how it happened – that is left for our science text books – but to show God’s purpose and intentions. We are told that “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”. We are then told that “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”



So, God tells us at the start of the Bible that this world is very good and that we should look after it and take good care of it. The Bible then tells us that we chose the path of selfishness and exploitation instead. That is why the world is in such an ecological mess: humanity has rejected God’s command to look after his creation and take good care of it. Christians, it is sadly fair to say, have been just as guilty of this as everyone else.

Finally humanity is waking up to God’s command to look after this world and take good care of it. Finally as Christians we are taking the start of the Bible seriously. But many worry whether it is too little, too late.

It is too little because we are all more keen on telling others what they should do than addressing our own failings, which we too readily excuse. Jesus commands us to deal with our own failings before criticising others, and leading by example and inspiration is always more powerful than hypocrisy and condemnation.

But I don’t believe it is too late. At the heart of Christianity is the story of humanity getting things wrong and God helping us back to the right path. There will be consequences for our destruction and exploitation of God’s wonderful creation, there always are consequences. But if as humanity we truly turn from our selfishness and exploitation of God’s planet, there will be hope.

Because God so loved the world that he sent Jesus, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. With Jesus, there is always hope.

Children's Work ... Bev Frettsome



Sunday School During our 10.15am Service For Under 9s

We have different groups, activities and events that help us to learn about each other and build friendships. We are more likely to visit somewhere again if we can be ourselves and feel comfortable, plus we are then happier inviting our friends.

We offer different events throughout the year, such as celebrating our Christian festivals together and other community events.

It's great to see families joining in with our children's trails during the Snapdragon week of fun in the summer. It made us laugh when the squirrels ran off with some of the eggs during our Easter Day egg hunt, but we do believe in sharing!



Fun Easter Activities With Bev ...



**St Mary's Church
Kids Summer Activities!**

**18th & 25th July, 1st, 8th & 15th August
11am-1pm**

**@ St Mary's Church Hall
Craft, Games and Toys**

**Art Project Theme - Noah's Ark
£1.50 per child and £1 per adult**

Booking Essential

**Please contact Bev Frettsome
07973830668**

bevfrettsome@hotmail.com

for more details.

St Mary's, Hinckley
everybody welcome

Other Childrens Activities

**Tuesdays - Once a month
After school group
and family cooking**

**Children's Area in Church
Open 10am-1pm Mon-Sat
when coffee bar is open
and during Sunday Services**

School Holiday Activities

All Welcome ...

Contact Bev!

St Mary's, Hinckley
everybody welcome

allsorts
BABY & TODDLER GROUP

A group for babies & under 4's their parents & carers

**Wednesday's Weekly
(term time only)**

**St. Mary's Church Hall
1.30pm until 2.45pm**

**Toys, activities, messy play,
refreshments and a chat.**

**Come along and make new friends in a
warm space
£1 donation**

**Book via email or text Bev at
bevfrettsome@hotmail.com 07973830668**

All Welcome!

For those who have never been to visit, we have a thriving community centre on Tudor Road that St Mary's church oversees with support from local businesses, grants and residents.

There are currently 28 regular groups, including a Weight management club for men, Diabetes support group, Exercise classes, School support class/training, The Beacon church, a Parkinson group, a Stay and Play, Art class, Music groups, the U3A, Martial arts training, Uniform organisations and our wonderful Lunch Club, Friendship Café (Thursdays 10-1) and Welcome Café (Tuesdays 10-12).

The Centre is also extremely popular with party lettings at weekends and one-off bookings for wakes, training and local authority groups. We have a wonderful team, including 15 volunteers who dedicate their spare time and talents to help provide a warm and welcoming environment, run our cafés and help with all the fundraising efforts.



Lisa Wheatley

joined St Francis in her official role as Centre Manager in June 2022, having been a volunteer, regular fundraiser, admin support and a member of the management committee for many years. She is passionate about building a thriving community centre and providing opportunities and support for local residents.

Fundraising

This is at the heart of the centre not only generating much needed funds for ongoing maintenance but also providing a social environment for volunteers, users and visitors to get to know one another.

Past events have included Fashion shows, Jumble sales, Christmas wreath making, Chocolate bingo, Afternoon teas.

We were very grateful to G Seller who funded the transformation of the front and side gardens and to an HBBC grant for funding the tarmacking of the pathways. We have further funding to buy some outdoor seating. Future events will provide funds to refurbish the hall floor.

Our future events include:

17th June - Pride themed event
24th June - Summer Open Day
2nd September - Family Film Night

All details from Lisa or see our Facebook posts.

You can hire the centre for a 3-hour party in the hall for only £70 or a wake in the side room including refreshments for £100.



St. Francis Community Centre, Tudor Road,
Hinckley, LE10 0EQ

Tel: 01455 617185
Centre Mobile: 07789743846
adminsfcc@stfranciscom.co.uk

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed & Thurs 9am – 1pm

G Seller[®]
Our Family Caring For Your Family



Independent Funeral Directors,
Expert Memorial Masons &
Bereavement Support Specialists

Hinckley • Newbold Verdon • Leicester
01455 637457 • office@gseller.co.uk • www.gseller.co.uk



*And so we know and rely on the love God
has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in
love lives in God and God in them.*

1 John 4: 16

**Thank you for reading our first edition!
We hope you've enjoyed it.**