

Spotlight

St. Mary's with St. Francis



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Hello!

Welcome to the sixth edition of Spotlight, the quarterly magazine from St Mary's Church, Hinckley. We hope you enjoy the variety of regular and one-off features, news, activities and information we've put together for you. For this autumn edition, we have a craft and puzzle pull-out section in the centre pages, with a recipe for you to enjoy too.

If you would like to get in touch our email address is

spotlightstmarys@gmail.com

Happy reading!
Sarah Hill & Elisabeth Emmett-Pace.

Contacts ...

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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)

Tuesday Communion 10.30am:

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

Tuesday Prayer Meeting 10.30am:

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

Wednesday 1.30-2.45pm - Allsorts Baby & Toddler Group :

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

Dates For Your Diary ...

St Mary's Sunday School - During 10.15am Sunday Service:
(Not 1st Sunday as all age service with uniformed groups).

St Mary's Choir Practice - Fridays 7-8pm:
In church, new members always welcome - Contact Peter Harris

Lego Swap & HDPP Photo Scanning - 3rd Sat Monthly 10-12pm:
In church - See newsletter for more details

BCP Choral Evensong - 1st September & 3rd November 6pm

SMARTS Concerts - 1st Wednesday Monthly Sept - Dec 1-1.45pm:
In church - See page 9 for more information

SMARTS Concerts - 1st Wednesday Monthly Sept - Dec 1-1.45pm:
In church - See page 9 for more information

SHOOTS Course - Starts Wednesday 25th September 6.45pm:
In church - See page 21 for more information

**Freddie Mercury Tribute Night -
Saturday 5th October 8.15pm (doors open 7pm):**
Tickets available from church coffee bar or online - See church website

St Mary's Christmas Shop - From Monday 14th October: In church

Social Stroll - 19th October 11.30am
Meet at church - See page 24 for more details

Church Drive - Saturday 2nd November 6pm:
In church - See page 24 for more details

Charity Fair - Saturday 9th November 10am-2pm:
In church - More details to follow

**Fundraising Concert with Hinckley & Burbage Lions -
Saturday 23rd November 7pm:** In church - More details to follow

Christmas Tree Festival - 28th November to 2 December:
In church - See page 24 for more details

**Coffee Bar Volunteers always needed -
Please speak to Kerrie in the church office.**

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

Getting To Know You: Liz Seal ...

Elisabeth Emmett-Pace

Who are you and where are you from?

I'm Liz. I was born in Chesterfield, but I grew up in Tamworth.

What makes you 'you'?

There are a number of things that contribute to who I am but primarily I'm rooted in family, but family is about more than blood relatives and I care really deeply about being in a position to help people and look after them.



What did you do before you became an aromatherapist?

I spent most of my career as a dispensing optician. But I was 'One Of The Wonders Of Woolworths' while I was in the sixth form!

Why did you decide to become a dispensing optician?

I first thought about training to become a physio. The careers advice lady during 6th form laughed when I said physio, so it was back to the drawing board. In the careers' book I found Orthoptics, not too far from physio, and looked into that, but it was incredibly hard to get a place on that course. So, I went back to the book and Optical Dispensing was under Orthoptics! As an O level entry course, I got a place that didn't depend on a bizarre selection of A levels and the rest as they say is history!

What brought you to Hinckley?

Work was what brought me here. We were living near Bradford and I was made redundant. I spent an afternoon on the phone speaking to everyone in optics that I knew and I was recommended for the job at Specsavers in Hinckley when a new store was opening.

What is your aromatherapy journey?

I did a five day massage course first, which led me onto other courses and becoming a qualified Clinical Aromatherapist. I was looking for a way of helping people as individuals, as I had done for years as an optician. The more I studied, the more astonished I was at how much power there could be in those plant essences. I still enjoy developing new skills. I find it fascinating combining oils to produce different aromas and different therapeutic effects.

What is your hope for St Mary's?

Growing together as a church community and individually. Also, us supporting each other and looking out for each other.

What makes you happy?

Spending time with people I love. But I like trying new things and of course there's travel and exploring new places too.

What makes you angry?

Injustice. Seeing people I love hurting and not being able to do anything about it. As well as people who can't see past their differences to find common ground.

What's on your un-bucket list?

Cave diving. I like walking around caves, but I don't want to be stuck in one!

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

My book would be *The Masterharper Of Pern* by Anne McCaffrey. It's a cracking good read and reminds me of the rest of the series - but I've not got a big enough suitcase to take all of them!

My music is the Fleetwood Mac album *Rumours*.

What hobbies do you have?

How long have you got?!!!

I really enjoy craft, including, knitting, crochet, quilting, sewing, felting, and whatever else I decide on any given day!

But I like to find time for reading, gardening, music and cooking too!

Where was your favourite holiday?

The next one! Because I look forward, the next one is always the best because it's somewhere new.

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

When this question came up in my teens I said the comedian and actor Michael Bentine, but now I'd really relish the chance to have a proper adult conversation with my Dad.

Who is your bible hero?

Mary Magdalene because Jesus' close friendship with her proved that he valued equality.

Who do you think we should interview next?

Joy Allman.

St Mary's Peregrines ... Steve Townson

From This ... To That!

So, from these very inquisitive fluff balls we now have three fully fledged juvenile Peregrines. We hope that all those who have enjoyed sharing this incredible success story, in church, in the church grounds, via our face book page and now in the skies around the town, are able to enjoy it again another year.

So, a brief timeline: the first chick hatched on the 13th of May, by the end of June all three chicks had left the nest. What happens next? The chicks are now fully fledged and are gaining experience of being Peregrines. It is still worth keeping an eye on the church tower and also the Cadent Tower on Coventry Road as increasingly the adults will stop delivering food and start teasing the youngsters to chase them when they have food. If you are lucky, you may see food pass between them, where the parent releases the food for the youngster to catch in the air. This is all part of the learning process, moving towards taking live prey in the air.

We were fortunate on Sunday 21st July, as we gathered for the 8am service, to witness one adult and all three youngsters flying round and round the church tower at high speed.

We can look forward to a few more weeks of entertainment before the birds explore further afield. As soon as I know the DNA results, I will let you know if we have boys or girls.



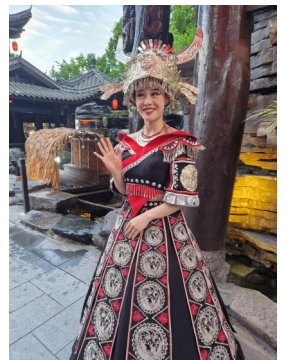
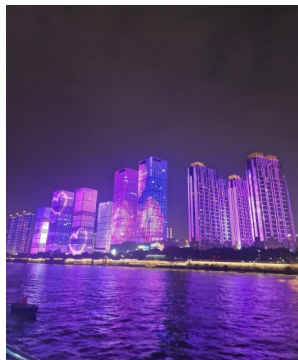
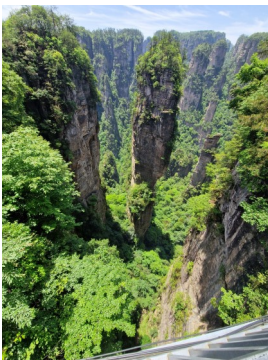
Another Side To China ... Suzanne Thorpe

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to travel to China through my work as branch manager of Millington Travel. Whilst I had travelled to the Far East before, China was the great unknown to me and so I leapt at the chance!

My destination was Changsha and Zhangjiajie in the Hunan province, central China. Changsha is a vibrant city, small by China standards, but large by UK ones! It's a cultural centre, with museums and universities, but at night, buildings on the banks of the Xiang Jiang river are alight with dancing LED displays, creating a show worthy of New Years Eve celebrations.

From Changsha we took the super-efficient bullet train to be wowed by the natural beauty Zhangjiajie and its stunning national park. You may not have heard of this place, let alone have any idea how to pronounce it, but a lot will have seen it ... Zhangjiajie was the inspiration for the setting of Pandora in the film Avatar. It is truly other worldly, with sandstone pillars rising majestically from the forest floor, and where mist and cloud hanging low gives the impression of floating islands. The park is linked by elevators, cable cars, glass walkways and even ziplines if you're feeling more daring (and I was!), making it a truly magical place. It's easy to see why this is fast becoming a must-see stop on a China itinerary.

My time in China was brief, but it's certainly given me great insight and it's whetted my appetite for more. A quirky, beautiful country with friendly people and a wealth of culture and arts. I hope to return one day!



St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival is fast approaching! This year it runs from Thursday 28th November to Monday 2nd December.

Entry forms will soon be available for you to display a tree. If you would like one electronically, please email stmarystreefestival@gmail.com (there will also be some paper ones available at the back of church).

There will be lots happening over those days.

As always you will be able to vote for your favourite trees, enjoy refreshments from the coffee bar and follow the children's trail. There will be musical entertainment available at different times.

We will be open during the following times:

Thursday 6.30pm-8.30pm; Friday 10am-8pm; Saturday 10am-4pm (with a special ticketed event at 7pm); Sunday 12pm-4pm; Monday 10am-1pm (quieter for those with sensory needs).

We have our Christingle Service at 10.15am on Sunday 1st December and at 6pm our Advent Carol Service. All our welcome to join us.

It's always a magical weekend and we would love for you to join us - let's make this year even bigger and better than last year!

SMARTS (St Mary's Arts) Concerts

Wednesday 4th September
ACER Clarinet Quartet

All concerts are 1pm-1.45pm
in church -
the perfect musical lunchtime!

Wednesday 2nd October
Michelle Norton (Soprano)
& James Banville (Piano)

Admission (on the door):
Adults £4.50
Child/Student £1

Wednesday 6th November
LE8 Five Brass Quintet

Season Tickets £16
(Available at the first concert)

Wednesday 4th December
The Hinckley School
Music Students

Promoting live music in
Hinckley.



Charity Focus - HoverAid ... Roger Mayo

HoverAid (HA) is a small charity formed to exploit the use of hovercraft in “Reaching the Unreachable” - those that others can’t or won’t reach. The charity currently works in Madagascar, one of the poorest countries on Earth and an island as big as France. Deforestation has caused many roads to be washed away and the rivers to be silted up, making access to remote communities extremely difficult. HA take teams of volunteer medics to the “Back of Beyond” where consultations, ultrasound scans and operations, sometimes serious ones, are carried out under very basic conditions. In severe cases, patients can be evacuated to hospital. HA work with partner organisations including Mission Aviation Fellowship, Helimission and the Deichmann Foundation, the latter having just funded two truck-based mobile clinics.

HA are currently engaged in updating their fleet of hovercraft, with a new prototype in the last stages of production, testing and deployment. This hovercraft is a River Rover (a small six-seater craft unavailable anywhere else) that will use the wide and shallow rivers of Madagascar in the dry season as a means of reaching more communities along the river banks. The design of the River Rover makes it ideal for use on twisty, shallow or rough water systems.

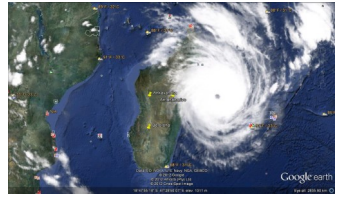


Some of the volunteers working on this new River Rover recently entered the Red Bull Soapbox Challenge, at Alexandra Palace. They built a River Rover lookalike soapbox and came second overall, out of 59 entries, judged on speed down the track and originality of presentation. Well done guys!



In the mean-time patients often walk for days, sometimes up to 100 kilometres, to get to a Madagascar Medical Safari (MMS) of medics - organised by HA - that have been flown in by MAF or transported by minibus over difficult roads. These safaris often use old hospital buildings that the authorities cannot now afford to staff. There are 13 MMSs planned for this year.

In the wet season cyclones (the Indian Ocean equivalent of hurricanes) often strike Madagascar, leaving communities damaged and cut off. Because of poor news communications, the World often does not hear about their devastating effects. HA has expertise in getting to these people with first-aid supplies and help, assessing wider needs, and often going back to do major work such as rebuilding bridges and schools.



If you wish to know more about HoverAid visit uk.Hoveraid.org, or speak to Sarah Hill or her family and look out for the HoverAid tree at the Christmas Tree Festival!



HDPP School Hymns Service ... Paul Gardner

A very enjoyable afternoon was the verdict of all those that attended HDPP's Old School Assembly Hymns & Songs held on the 16th June. Paul Gardner BEM of Hinckley District Past & Present welcomed everyone to the church.

Classic hymns were led by the choir including *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus, How Great Thou Art, Fight the Good Fight, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* and *Thine Be the Glory*. The church band also led us in more contemporary songs from school assemblies in the later 20th Century including *Lord of the Dance, This Little Light of Mine, One more Step Along the Road I Go* and *Kum Ba Yah*.

Afterwards tea and cakes were served with everyone saying how much they enjoyed their afternoon with HDPP and the church.

Paul Gardner told us "It was a super afternoon of school memories, just how it used to be. We are looking forward to the next one." Paul went on to thank Peter Harris for his help in arranging the event. A big thank you to the choir who were in fine voice and the church band for their lovely contribution.

Choral Evensong Origins ... Peter Harris

You do not need any particular religious belief to enjoy Choral Evensong. The nature of the service allows people to engage with it in their own way. There is very little for the congregation to do: sit, stand, say the Creed if desired, maybe sing a hymn. That's it. The choir do the rest!

As an English language service, Choral Evensong and Evening Prayer date back to the time of the Reformation, using elements of the old monastic Offices of Vespers and Compline. The liturgy (a fixed set of words and ceremonial features) that the Church uses to this day was laid out in Archbishop Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer, the first version of which appeared in 1549. The music started a few decades later, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, with great composers like William Byrd and Thomas Tallis developing exquisite polyphonic choral music specifically for this new service, and in each subsequent generation new composers have continued to add masterworks of classical choral music to the repertoire of Evensong.

When you attend Choral Evensong, you will find it almost always follows the wording of the Book of Common Prayer. Although the definitive version was published in 1662, it includes much of the original 1549 version, including the translation of the psalms by Myles Coverdale, which precedes the version in the King James Bible of 1611.

The high proportion of music in Choral Evensong is arguably what distinguishes it from other church services. The music carries us beyond the limitations of human words towards those things we cannot articulate. The Magnificat is a joyful song, the Nunc Dimittis a sung plea, the Psalms pure praise. Music's communication of these feelings is immediate.

Whatever we may believe, Choral Evensong is a beautiful tradition just waiting to be witnessed that can give respite and inspiration during our busy modern lives. It is the fastest growing service in the Anglican community and is attended by both church goers and non-believers there to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere and music.



evensong

Wordoku

This works exactly like a sudoku puzzle - but with letters!
So one of each in each row, column, diagonal and square.

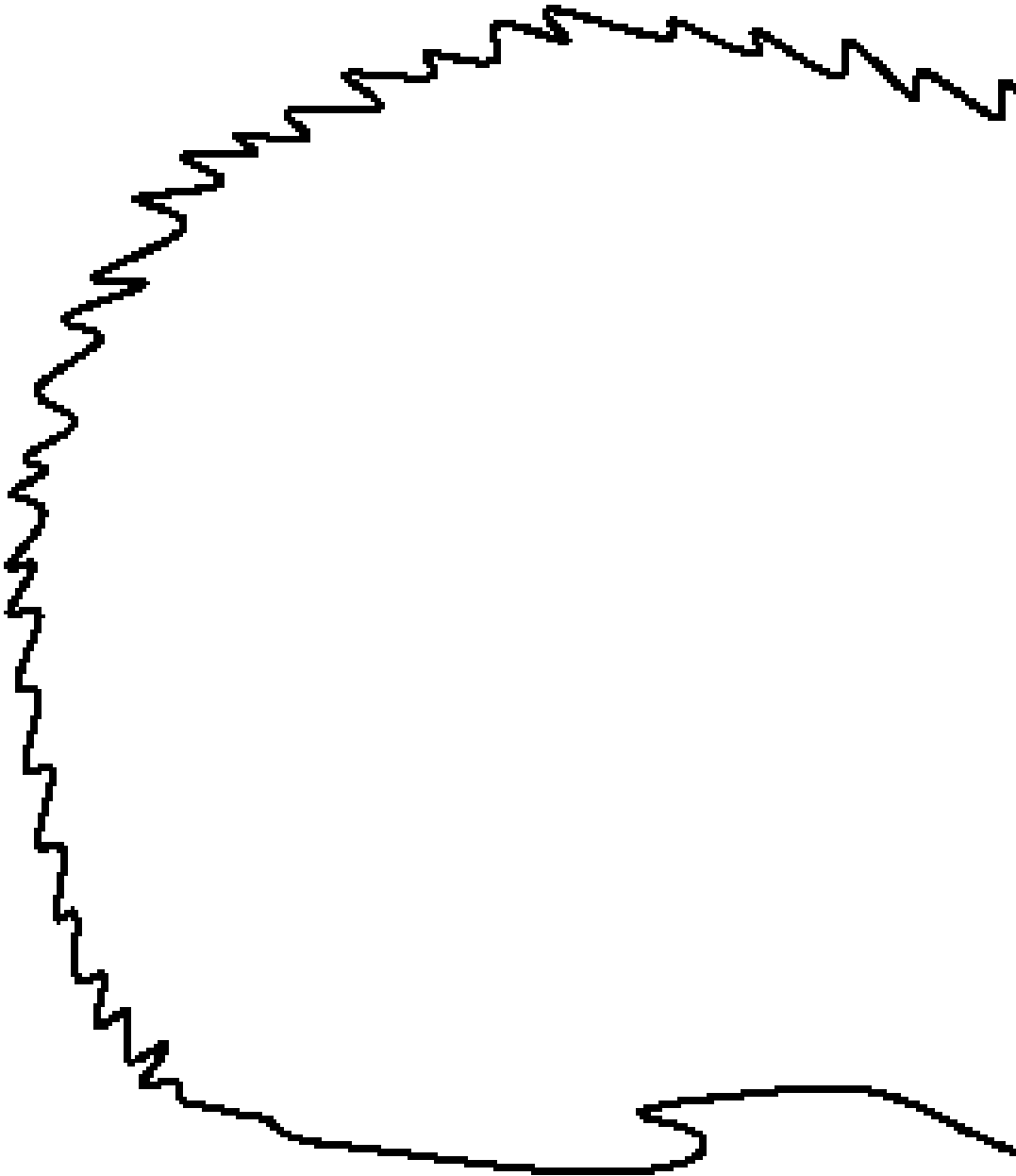
Characters in the puzzle are **&, A, E, L, O, P, R, V, Y** .

The middle line, when completed, reveals a hidden phrase.

Answer on page 25.

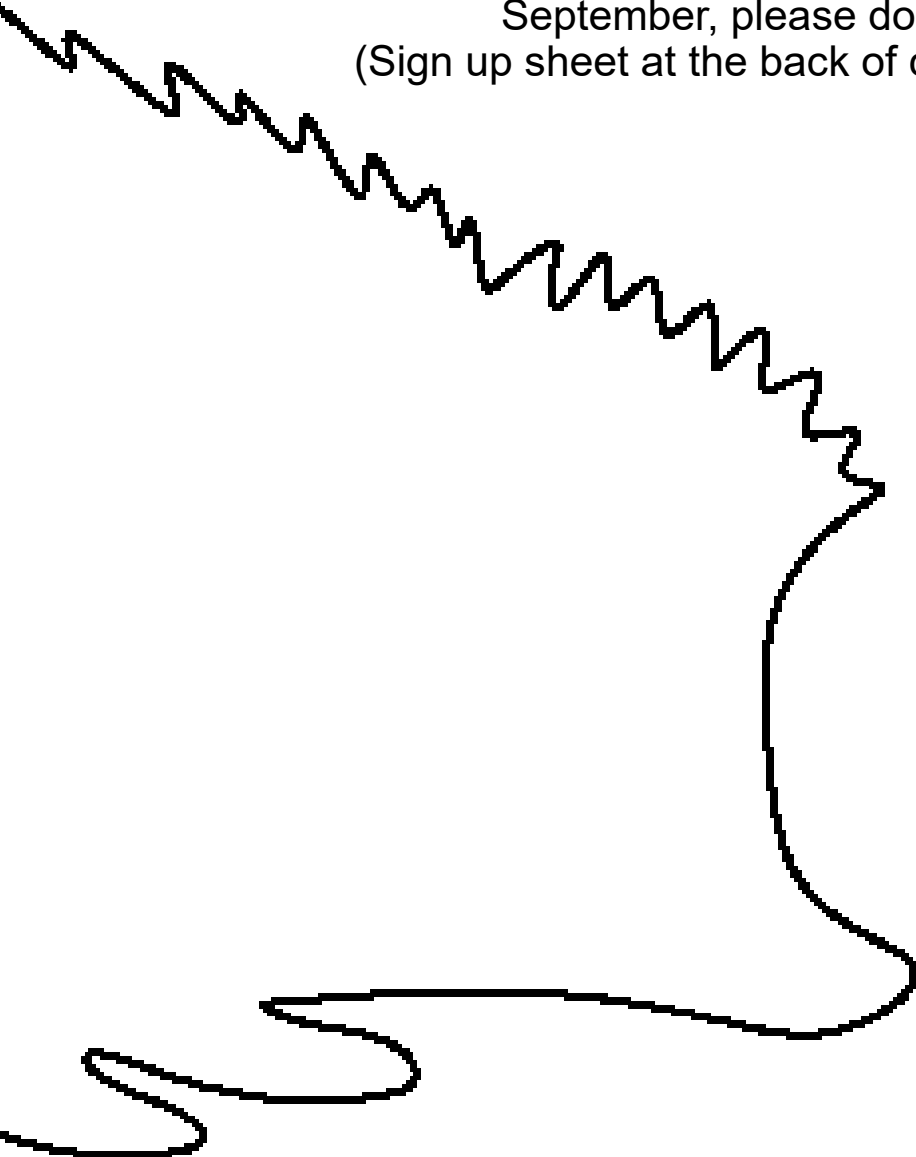
A				E	R		L	
P	L				Y			
	Y	E		P				R
		P		A		L		&
			E		P			
&		A		L		P		
R				V		&	P	
			L				R	E
	V		P	R				O

Autumn Craft ...
Make A Leaf Hedgehog



Kids (and adults) enjoy nature and craft.
So ... enjoy colouring the hedgehog and
sticking leaves on it to make its spines.

We'll also be doing this at our craft
afternoon on Sunday 29th
September, please do join us.
(Sign up sheet at the back of church).



Vegan Quiche Recipe ... Catherine Hamilton

When I became vegan about 7 years ago, I experimented with my cooking and learnt that lots of things were accidentally vegan, bought puff pastry being one of them. With a large family to feed this recipe is quick, easy, cheap and every time it is different depending what vegetables I use and what sauce you add. It is a chance to use up leftovers. I've added falafels, tofu, sausages - the options are endless. It never fails to impress and everyone who has tried it has loved it.

Ingredients

1 sheet ready rolled puff pastry (I use light/low fat version)
Any roasted veg (onions, pepper, courgette, aubergine, mushrooms)

Method

- Fill the bottom half of a large baking/roast tray with veg and drizzle with oil, salt & pepper and paprika.
- Cook in a hot oven (180-200C) for 15-20 mins until just cooked.
- Remove from oven.
- Drizzle over BBQ sauce and/or ketchup and stir veg and make sure evenly spaced.
- You can also place lumps of cream cheese and grated cheese, or cherry tomatoes on top at this stage.
- Place a sheet of pastry on the top of the veg, tucking down the sides.
- Cook for further 15-20 minutes until the pastry is golden brown and crispy.
- Remove from oven. Place a board or tray on top and turn over so the veg are now on top (bit tricky!)

You can make this the right way up i.e. place the cooked roast veg on top of raw pastry, and then cook, but the pastry doesn't cook so well at the bottom. It is worth the flipping over!

Slice with a pizza cutter and serve immediately with salad and chips or potatoes.

Let me know how you get on and if you ever want to chat about being vegan or vegan recipes I'm open to that.



Does poor mental health have to be a complete barrier to achievement?

Poor mental health is a difficult thing. It affects every aspect of your life and every moment of your day. Things that people take for granted, are now huge achievements - getting out of bed, getting dressed, getting out of your front door. Different people struggle with different things. But, just for a moment, imagine this scenario ...

You're a school athlete, good at athletics at your level and competing in the heptathlon. All of a sudden, your fellow competitors are Olympians, your targets are Olympic targets, you have to achieve personal bests that feel way beyond you just to stay in the competition and, suddenly, you're completely floored because someone moved the goalposts. That's what it can feel like when you're going through life ok and suddenly poor mental health gets a grip on you. Getting out of bed is your high jump, getting dressed is your marathon and getting out of the front door is your long jump. Only you've had no training, you weren't expecting it and your sand is wet from crying.

Mental health is a spectrum, just like physical health. We all have it, good, bad or somewhere in-between. There should be no more shame in poor mental health than in poor physical health. The brain is an organ just like the heart. We don't stigmatise for a heart disease, so why do we for depression or suchlike?

For some, poor mental health takes the form of mild depression and is treatable with counselling and/or anti-depressants. This can be short term, or long term, but in a lot of cases people can feel better. But, for some, poor mental health can be far more serious and debilitating. It can also be lifelong. That doesn't make people any less valuable or worthwhile, it simply makes them ill and in need of treatment, something which is so difficult to access in today's climate.

The origins of poor mental health are varied. They can come out of our past experiences and traumas, our day-to-day life, chemical imbalances, to name just a few. Some are treatable with medication, some not so much.

Some people will find the only way to cope is to self-medicate - be that drugs, smoking, alcohol, self-harm or other addictions. We should support not judge, reliance on these things is for a reason and we can't just remove that 'emotional crutch'.

Poor mental health is not something to be scared of, very few people are actually dangerous, more people are likely to hurt themselves than others. People die by suicide every day and then people ask why didn't they ask for help? Well, why didn't we check in on them? Maybe they didn't feel able to ask for help, maybe they didn't know what to say, or maybe we just didn't hear them. I say 'die by suicide' not 'commit suicide' as 'committing' something sounds like a crime when all that person wants is peace and for the pain to end, the pain that feels intolerable and unending.

But even when someone has asked for help, it doesn't mean that the system will be able to provide it. The system is broken. You may get a referral onto a waiting list. The waiting times aren't short. It's no wonder people feel failed by the system.

In today's society it seems wrong that when we have the NHS, if you have poor mental health and need a talking therapy (more than the 6-8 weeks counselling that the GP may provide), then if you want it in a reasonable time span, for therapy that isn't time limited, we're back to the old adage of 'you get what you pay for'. But the number of private counsellors and therapists around speaks volumes. However, it's expensive and will price a lot of people out of getting help. Charities do have some limited spaces at reduced cost, but it is often time limited. So, if you have complex counselling needs, it's 'get your money out' time, or sit on a waiting list of 'X years'.

Don't try to 'guilt trip' someone into living, that won't help them, just talk to them as a fellow human being. Most importantly, listen to them without judgement, support them without condemnation and love them without condition.

Remember, people with poor mental health can still achieve, even those with a serious diagnosis, even those unable to work. They can still volunteer and do things, they still have talents. It may be harder to use them, they may have no confidence in their abilities, but that doesn't mean that they don't exist - it just might be a little harder to find them and remind their owner that they're there and worthy!

Remember ... "Broken Crayons Still Colour"!

10th October is World Mental Health Day, as it is every year. It's a day used to raise awareness of mental health. This year's theme is 'It is time to prioritise mental health in the workplace'. At St Mary's we are hoping to have a display up in church about mental health, so please do come and see it.

And you will always find a warm welcome here, whether you are well, struggling or completely broken. We won't expect you to be anything you're not, just come as you are and whatever that is, that is ok. We're not here to judge or to change who you are. As our banner says ... **'Everybody Welcome'. And yes, that means everybody, even you.**

Christian Roots Course Thoughts ... Marie Sandford

Recently, a number of people from our church community attended the Roots Course led by Rev Ian, Sarah, Rev Bob and Penny. Understanding the Nicene Creed was explored in detail across 8 sessions - each session presented and explored an aspect of the Creed with time to discuss and reflect on a number of pertinent questions. The format allowed each of us to contribute at will or use the time for deeper reflection. In addition to the factual learning in relation to early Christianity and the Nicene Creed, the opportunities for deeper discussions and reflections led to a greater understanding of our own roots of faith. The last session concluded with Compline, a time of quietness and reflection to end our day.

The Roots Course will be followed by a Shoots Course to explore how our faith impacts on our views of the world and then a Fruits Course to consider how our faith impacts on the way we live our lives and the choices we make. See page 21 for details.

Having time to reflect on the depth of my roots and to listen to the experiences of others proved spiritually beneficial. I would highly recommend taking time to experience the future courses.

Colossians 2: 6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Oh, and I forgot to mention, there was time for tea, coffee, biscuits and even doughnuts!

What are we holding on to?



I had a poster on my wall as a child of a kitten hanging onto the end of a rope. The caption read something like *“Faith is what we hold on to when all else is lost.”*



When things are going swimmingly, we can cruise through life seemingly without a care in the world, but when

it all goes wrong - where do we turn, what do we hold on to? With all the unrest both abroad and in the UK recently it can feel like everything is going wrong. Maybe things are wrong at home too? Where do you turn?

Our recent Roots Course looked at the Nicene Creed, the foundation of our faith, and the ‘Mission Statement’ every Christian Church should be able to sign up to. Whatever our differences, these are our fundamental core beliefs, shared by Christians across the world and across time. This is the rope to which I cling.

It is incredibly powerful to look at all the evidence that stacks up behind this ancient list of beliefs, not plucked out of the air but rooted in physical evidence - the creation of the universe from nothing, the diversity of creation on our planet and the interconnectedness of that creation. It requires more faith to believe it is all here by chance than by a loving, creative being orchestrating it! That loving, creative being poured out their love to their created beings that could return it by free will, and so could also reject it.

The evidence that a man called Jesus was born in Bethlehem, fled to Egypt as a refugee, returned to work in Nazareth and became an itinerant preacher across Israel is strong and robust. That he performed miracles of healing and controlling nature is also confirmed by external sources in greater number than more recent historical events we take for granted. Taking the time to look at these sources of evidence makes your ‘rope’ stronger.

During the Roots Course we looked at the evidence for why Mary's virgin birth was necessary, and why Jesus had to be fully God and fully human, in order for him to take the place of not just one other human, but an infinite number of humans, in order to deal with the consequences of our rejection of God's love for us, and in order to bring us back into relationship with our loving creator God.

We looked at what Jesus's death, and more importantly his evidenced resurrection, means for us and our faith - the knot on the end of the 'rope' that stops us slipping! Without his resurrection and proof that death is not the end, our faith would be worthless and a colossal waste of time and effort. Instead, with that proof, we can have faith that this life is about far more than human interaction, both good and bad, and paying the next bill, passing on our genes and 'being a nice person.' We can be certain that we have the option of spending eternity with the loving, creative being who designed us each uniquely wonderful and amazing. He doesn't make mistakes. He stands with open, welcoming arms and waits for us to choose to turn to him.

So, how does this fit with the humanly constructed world we see around us? How does faith help or hinder us in our daily interactions? This is the subject of our next course in the series - Shoots - where we will delve into Faith & Conflict, Faith & Suffering, Faith & Ecology and Faith & Science.

If our faith is real, it should direct how we live our lives, our choices and driving forces. Our Shoots grow from our Roots (although attending the Roots Course is not a pre-requisite to attending the Shoots Course!).

Everyone is welcome to come and explore with us, starting on
25th September for four weeks
7pm (arrive 6.45pm for coffee)
St Mary's Church

***“Christianity, if false, is of no importance,
and if true, of infinite importance,
the only thing it cannot be is
moderately important.”***
C.S. Lewis

Pastoral Care at St Mary's ... Pat Haerle

Having been involved with the Pastoral Team in Kinver Methodist Church before moving to Hinckley, I was pleased when Joy invited me to the Pastoral Care Meeting and suggested that I might like to help at St. Mary's.

As the months go by, I am getting to know people better and so find opportunities to be of service. Home visits are part of the "job description" and I have accompanied Charles on several occasions when he has taken Communion to housebound folk, as well as visits on my own. It is true that when you offer friendship and concern to others you receive blessings.

Recently on Thursday mornings I have been "hovering" around the church drinking coffee with many opportunities to offer friendship and prayer to those who pop in for various reasons. The Pastoral Team is hoping to have someone in church each morning, a really valuable service.

As a team we go out to some of the Care homes such as Hinckley House and Hinckley Park to lead Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services sometimes with Holy Communion. These bring great joy to the residents who enjoy singing the hymns and the conversation afterwards. It is especially rewarding when we meet people who used to attend church but are no longer able. We are grateful to those from church who support us on these occasions.

St. Mary's is a welcoming, loving, open church and it is a privilege to be part of this ministry. There are opportunities to get involved as "welcomers" or for anyone over coffee to chat to people and get to know them better, especially newcomers.

Maybe this is something you could be involved in? If so, chat to Joy.

***He bids us build each other up
And gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in hand go on.***

Charles Wesley

St Mary's Patronal Festival

Thursday 15th August saw the annual celebration of our Patronal Festival. We held a special communion service with The Venerable Claire Wood, Archdeacon of Loughborough presiding and preaching. We were joined by visiting dignitaries and clergy. Music was enjoyed from the church band and choir, with wonderful cakes afterwards. A big thank you to everyone involved in making the evening an such an enjoyable success. Looking forward to next year.



Social News

As a busy church, we again have lots going on over the coming months. They include:

A **BBQ** to coincide with the Classic Car Rally in town on **Sunday 15th September**. The BBQ will be from **12pm-2pm**. Come and buy a burger!

On **Sunday 29th September** we have our **Lunch and Craft Afternoon**. This is **after the 10.15am service** in church. There will be soup and a roll available and different crafts available for you to try. Donations invited for Foodbank and church. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church to give us an idea of numbers for making soup.

Saturday 19th October at **11.30am** sees our next **Social Stroll**. We will meet at church and walk to the Lime Kilns pub for a drink/lunch.

After the previous success, we are holding another '**Church**' (**Beetle**) **Drive** on **Saturday 2nd November** at **6pm** in church. This will include a fish and chip supper. Tickets will be available in the coffee bar.

Then comes our ever wonderful **Christmas Tree Festival** from **Thursday 28th November to Monday 2nd December**. There is a feature about the festival on page 9.

If you have any ideas for socials let Liz, Elisabeth or Catherine know.

All are welcome to join us for one or all of these events.

Further details will appear in the church newsletter, on our Facebook page and on the church website, so please do look out for information!

Children's Work

There are a lot of children's activities that go on at St Mary's. Every Sunday (except our 1st Sunday All Age Service) there is Sunday School at the 10.15am service, where the children can do activities with Bev. There is a children's corner for the little ones.

Bev runs a monthly Family Drop-In for children, parent/carers and grandparents. This is from 3.30pm-4.45pm. The next dates are 10th September, 8th October, 12th November and 10th December and it takes place in church. Drinks, biscuits and children's craft activities with toys for younger children. Donations welcome. Please book by text or email with Bev.

Join in with the Food & Baking Club for primary age group. Toys available for younger family members. £2.50 each child, £1 adult. Running 24th September, 15th October, 26th November from 3.30pm-5pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking with Bev via text or email is essential.

Allsorts Baby & Toddler Group runs weekly on Wednesdays in term time (starting back 11th September). St Mary's Church Hall, 1.30pm-2.45pm. Toys, activities, messy play, refreshments and a chat. £1 donation. Book via text or email with Bev.

Bev: 07973 830668 or bevfrettsome@hotmail.com

Wordoku Answer

O	Y	A	&	R	P	L	V	E
E	R	A	V	L	&	P	O	
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R		O	L	P	A	E	V	
A		R	O	Y	&	O	P	L
V	L	P	R	E	R	V	O	A

St Francis Centre News

We are currently without a dishwasher and very grateful to our volunteers, and particularly Michelle for the abundance of washing up she has undertaken.



Your centre needs you!
We are in need of more volunteers for our regular and one-off events. If you could spare a few hours weekly or fortnightly please let Lisa know.



We had an excellent summer outing on a boat with lunch in beautiful weather in Nottingham.

St Francis Friendship cafe
Every Thursday
10am until 12pm
Everyone welcome
Tudor Rd, Hinckley, LE100EQ

Friendship Café a coffee and lively chat. We provide cake, crumpets, toast and drinks for a small charge with a variety of activities taking place. Pin Pals social also meet to learn or work on a hobby/project with like-minded crafters.

Our carpeted room has had a makeover ready to house Food Bank when they start in the Autumn!

The local community really shone through when our freezer broke down in July and we lost all the food ready for lunch club and future events. We set up a Go fund me page and within hours the target had been met to buy a new freezer. Tesco, Iceland, Hinckley Lions and RCC all contributed to the loss of food too.



With Westfield closing down, we will be accommodating their lunch club members and expanding. Luckily we have a great team of volunteers and an amazing cook, Amanda, who are looking forward to more folk to enjoy the great food and company. We will also be accommodating some of their regular groups so the centre is extremely busy!



St. Francis Community Centre,
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adminsfcc@stfranciscom.co.uk
Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed & Thurs 9am - 1pm

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*Whoever lives in love lives in
God, and God in them.
Colossians 2: 7*

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