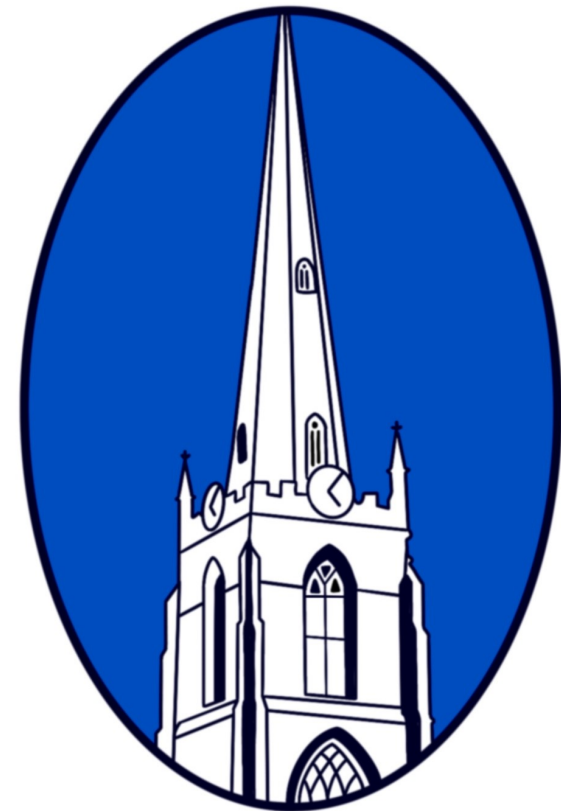


Spotlight

St. Mary's with St. Francis
Hinckley



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Hello!

Welcome to the tenth edition of Spotlight, the quarterly magazine from St Mary's Church with St Francis, Hinckley.

We hope you enjoy the variety of regular and one-off features, news, activities and information.

We are a busy open church with lots going on!

For this autumn edition, we have a theme of abundance.

If you would like to get in touch our email address is
spotlightstmarys@gmail.com

Next edition due out November 2025.

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 & 3rd with communion, 2nd, 4th & 5th without)

Tuesdays at 10.30am:

1st Tuesday - **Friendship Group** in the coffee bar
 2nd & 4th Tuesdays - **Communion Service** in the Lady Chapel
 3rd & 5th Tuesdays - **Prayer Meeting** in the Lady Chapel

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

St Mary's Friendship Group - 1st Tuesday of month 10.30-11.30am: In church coffee bar

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

Allsorts Baby & Toddler Group - Wednesdays 1.30-2.45pm:
In church hall - Term time only - Book with Bev Frettsome

Classic Car Rally BBQ - Sunday 21st September
after the 10.15am service - See page 24 for more details

Come And Sing Faure's Requiem - Sat 4th October 3.30pm/6pm:
In church - See page 25 for more details

Church Drive - Saturday 18th October 5-7pm
In church - Tickets £8/£2 - See page 24 for more details

Christmas Tree Festival - 27th November - 5th December
In church - See page 25 for more details

Elvis Tribute Night - 6th December 8.15pm (doors 7pm):
Tickets available from church coffee bar or online - See church website

Wreath Making Workshop - Monday 8th December 7-9pm
In church hall - Tickets £27 - See page 24 for more details

St Mary's Day Trip - Tuesday 9th December 9.15am-6pm
Boundary Mills Outlet & Belvoir Castle - £40pp - Book with Kerrie in church office - See church newsletter for more details

**All sorts of volunteers always needed! -
Please see page 11.**

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

Organ Restoration Update & Appeal ... Organ Group



At last we have had agreement from the Diocese to have our organ repaired and the order has been placed with our organ builder. There is a 3-month lead time on the parts required, plus fitting time, so we hope to have the organ playable again as soon as possible.

The cost of the repairs is going to be £35,000, and so far, we have managed to raise £14,000 leaving a shortfall of £21,000. We are therefore appealing to the generosity of everyone to raise the shortfall.

If you wish to make a donation, please place in an envelope marked 'Organ Fund'. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please indicate that fact and enclose your Name and Address. Donations can be made by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to 'St Mary's PCC'.

All donations will be restricted to the Organ Fund for the repair and ongoing upkeep of the organ.

Many thanks for your support and hoping that soon we will all be able to hear the sound of our Organ again.

Holiday Opportunity

You've heard of Eat Out to Help Out - now it's time to 'Take a Break Away to Help the Organ Play!'

Fancy a country escape whilst helping support St Mary's? We have just the opportunity for you with a holiday home available in the Scottish Borders, where your rental donation will be going directly to St Mary's Church Organ fund?

1 bedroom flat (sleeping up to 4) just one hour's drive from Edinburgh, close to the River Tweed; ideal for hill walking, riverside strolls and getting away from it all!

Flexible durations available from August onwards.

For more details please contact Patricia on 07970 420441.

Getting To Know You: Andrew Sellwood ...

Elisabeth Emmett-Pace

Who are you and where are you from?

I'm Revd. Andrew R W Sellwood BA BD MA*. I'm married to Jill. We have three amazing children and three equally amazing grandchildren. I was born in Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire but have lived in many other places since.

What makes you 'you'?

Perhaps my many varied life experiences; some very good, some very bad, some very surreal.

What did you do before you became a URC Minister?

I left school at 15 (no qualifications but I made up for that in later life*) and joined Hawker Siddeley Aviation as an apprentice aerospace technician. I then trained to be a technical illustrator, then a graphic designer. I managed and promoted some bands in the late 1970's. For a while I had my own commercial photographic business. I ended up as a creative director for a design and advertising partnership, my perfect job. God let me do this for 18 months until he called me into His service.

Why did you decide to become a URC Minister?

I didn't. God decided. I soon learned God has a sense of humour. If anything, I wanted to be a Baptist minister! Previously I had never set foot in a church until I was 25. After my call was authenticated, I endured four years at a theological college in Cambridge then a further two part time at Sheffield studying Mission and Evangelism, which was brilliant.

What brought you to Hinckley?

Retirement. After 30 years in ordained ministry, we moved up from the Worthing/Brighton area to be near Jill's family. Also, property was more affordable here.

Why did you decide to become churchwarden?

I didn't. I rather expect that God had a hand in it. I was looking for some kind of ministry or voluntary work in my retirement. Even though I did some prior research there is so much I have to learn and understand about the Church of England. Unlike the free church you just can't get on and do things at the local level which is so frustrating.



I still think "help, what have I done?!" Then I remember, God has a sense of humour. Be patient with me, dear reader.

What is your hope for St Mary's?

That it continues to be a welcoming (so many churches claim this description, but they really aren't) and inclusive church, focused on mission/evangelism led by the Holy Spirit demonstrating the love of Jesus with scripture at its heart. Also, that the building holds together.

What makes you happy?

Jill of course, and being out and about in God's amazing creation. Keeping busy, good food and an equally good single malt.

What makes you angry?

Apparently, lots of things since I have joined the league of grumpy old men. But here are just a few. Hypocrisy, exploitation, cruelty, violence and when I see all the power in this world acquired and abused by those rich enough to buy it.

What hobbies do you have?

Shooting (field targets only!), fishing, anything arty, listening to music, woodwork, DIY and now gardening. Before moving to Hinckley, it was restoring and tuning up classic cars. I can't physically do that anymore, ironic really as the town hosts one of the biggest classic car shows in the country.

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

Oliver Cromwell, Winston Churchill and Ken Dodd. For good or bad both Cromwell and Churchill played pivotal roles in English history. Having studied their lives in books it would be fascinating to explore their motivations and feelings in person. After that intense conversation Mr Dodd would certainly lighten the atmosphere!

Who are your bible heroes?

St. John for such a comprehensive theological account of Jesus' ministry and giving us a wakeup call at the end of the Bible. Timothy, as when I began my ministry a wise old minister said, "as Paul said to Timothy, 'guard the gospel'." The apostle Paul writes to Timothy, a very young individual who is thinking about throwing in the towel because life and ministry is just too difficult for him. This is Paul's very last letter that he wrote, this was written about A.D. 67, from Rome. These would be Paul's final words to this young man, Timothy. Powerful stuff.

Who do you think we should interview next?

Sarah Hill.

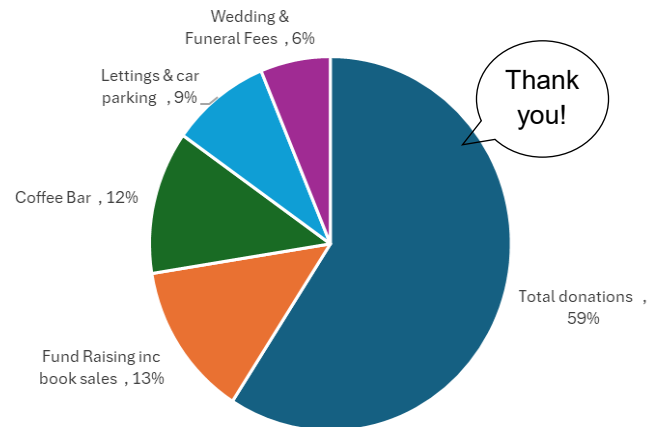
Generous Giving ... Catherine Hamilton

It is not generally known that the full cost of running a church and having a minister (through our parish contribution) is paid for by the giving of the members of the local church. Despite the careful controlling of costs, our projected ongoing running costs are expected to exceed our ongoing income by 17%.

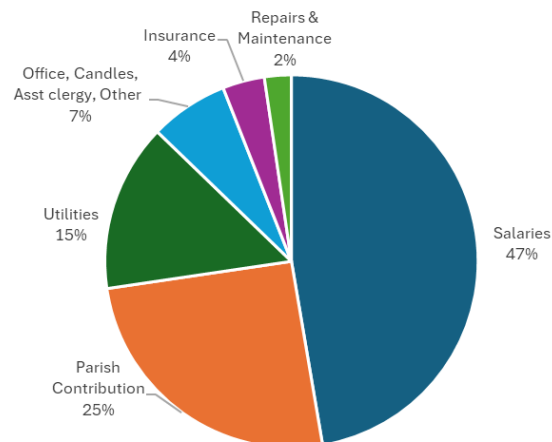
So far this year we have a shortfall of £8,281 i.e. we are losing approximately £319 per week. If we continue in this way, St Mary's church will be in debt by over £16k by the end of the year. This gap must be bridged if this historic church is going to continue to be available to the people of Hinckley in the way that it currently is.

We are in need right now, just to cover our everyday costs:

Income: Jan to June 2025 £45,726



Expenditure: Jan to June 2025 £54,007



THANK YOU! St Mary's couldn't continue without the 78 members who regularly and generously donate. We thank all of you who are able to be generous both regularly and on an ad hoc basis. Your money has enabled the church to continue to be open, have its own vicar, parish administrator, children's worker and cleaner and keep the lights and heating on. Donations make up 59% of all income.

All of us are invited to join together in meeting this challenge and in our generous giving, so the work of God through St Mary's will continue in this and future generations.

We have 120 on our recently revised electoral roll so we are some way off encouraging all members to regularly give so that we can budget and plan. We are heartened to see the uptake in the Parish Giving Scheme increasing. Please pray how together, we can help meet the daily, £45 shortfall.

If you feel called to give more, start giving, or make a one-off gift, please use the QR link below and if you can gift aid (where at no extra cost to you, every £1 that you give is worth £1.25 to St Mary's), please tick the relevant box.

If you prefer, please use the yellow envelopes in church.

Any questions please speak to our donation's coordinator, Catherine or via email, donations@stmaryshinckley.co.uk

Thank you



Abundance Is Not What You Have ... Amanda Cowley & Tricia Gilbrenny

Abundance is a joyful term, meaning ‘an ample quantity.’ Is it like how you feel after Sunday lunch or a cream tea, when you are left feeling full with delightful food but also slightly guilty for over indulging? Or is it more like this quote from an unknown author: “Abundance is not what you have, it is how grateful you are for what you have”.

In the Bible, in Ephesians, it states, “*God’s mercy is so abundant,*” and this makes me smile as it reminds me of how far I have come.

Having lived in London for 38 years with a short break in the Midlands when I was 22 years old, my husband, Paul and I, returned four years ago to be near my mum, Tricia. After one year of being here, I discovered I had Breast Cancer which soon became metastatic. Life came to a sudden halt and fear reigned for a time. My mum reminded me that she had reached radical remission after her breast cancer experience and that I could do the same. For the past three years I have been treated brilliantly by the NHS, but I have also incorporated radical lifestyle changes including getting morning sunlight exposure, rebounding, a change in diet, prayer support, breathing techniques, weight training, supplements etc. Recently, my oncologist was delighted to tell me there is no evidence of disease.

In Psalm 16, it states: “*The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!*” For me, my mum and my husband, we are aware that although we are fragile, we are also blessed with an inner strength gained from fellowship with God, time with each other, and the joy from living an abundant life in the beautiful Midlands.

Reaping A Bountiful Harvest? ... Esther Bray

How to reap a bountiful Harvest in life?

How do we reap a bountiful Harvest in life? I'm no expert to say I know the answer, but I know there is advice from our Bible about this topic. In the Old Testament, the feast we now call Pentecost (usually around May) is called The Feast of Harvest. It is the time they celebrated the blessing of God, Yahweh, towards the provision of grains that are vital for their survival and prosperity.

(Harvest comes at a different time of year in the Mediterranean!) They depict the God of Yahweh as the Lord of Harvest, as they see that all goodness and provisions are given by the blessing of the Creator God. In Psalm 127:1, “*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.*” With this passage, we understand that it is not only by our effort that the success will be achieved; it is also by the blessing of God bestowed on us that success is inevitable.

In the New Testament, where Pentecost celebrates the first followers receiving God’s gift of His Holy Spirit enabling us to experience God with us, it echoes the same sentiment about success in what we do. In John 15:4 Jesus says, “*Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.*” In this context, Jesus refers to Himself as the Word of God, as verse 7 continues to say, “*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*” The success of a Christian life depends on God’s grace and abiding in the Word of God through His Spirit. I would encourage everyone, including myself, to dig deeper into the Word of God and reap its Harvest for our lives.

Volunteering At St Mary’s

Can you help at St Mary’s? We’re looking for friendly, reliable volunteers to support a range of activities at St Mary’s. We need help with general maintenance, health & safety, small projects (research, quotes, etc.), support for social & fundraising events.

If you’d like to find out more or think you could lend a hand, please contact Liz, one of our churchwardens, at liz@stmaryshinckley.co.uk

We’re also looking for volunteers in our friendly Coffee Bar. Regular help makes it easier for us to keep it open, but we also appreciate one-off support. To get involved, please email Kerrie, our church administrator, at office@stmaryshinckley.co.uk

Thank you for supporting the life of St Mary’s!

HELP

Mathew's Movie's ... Mathew Hulbert

Reviewed are: Jurassic World Rebirth (2025) and Superman (2025).

Grab your popcorn, folks, and welcome to your handy film review corner here in Spotlight; where I go and see films so you can decide whether you also want to do so.

You might wonder what possible connection there can be between one flick about dinosaurs and one about Superman. On the face of it, I'll admit, not very much. But I'm here to make such connections, so here goes. I'd say it's all about belonging. Something we all, as human beings, seek and who we, as Christians, find in God.

In Jurassic World Rebirth, a flick about dinosaurs back roaming a corner of the world (I know, I know you do have to rather suspend reason when watching it) find a group of human beings in their midst who think the dinosaurs can help them become very rich indeed (I think you probably guess what happens to the villain of the piece even without a spoiler) and, understandably, are not exactly very chuffed about it. Are they welcome there? Should they be? You'll have to watch to find out...but you can probably guess.

In Superman, meanwhile, which I loved, and not just because of the very handsome gents playing the lead role and that of his arch nemesis Lex Luthor (David Corenswet and Nicholas Hoult respectively) but also because it's the tale of how Superman (an 'alien being') comes to be accepted...after going through a period of the very opposite of that.

Some idiot reviewers called it 'woke,' as if something portraying a minority finding belonging and acceptance where once there was hatred and hostility is somehow a bad thing.

As a gay man who can't even go on holiday without having to assess whether it's going to be safe for me to do so, these are themes which resonate with me very deeply. Indeed, tragically, we can't even simply go to church without doing some research to determine whether it is inclusive or not...and whether they are just easy words to say or are actually lived out in reality.

Our church needs to be for all seeking belonging, safety, and love in our town, what Metropolis eventually becomes for Superman - home.

Love In Abundance Puzzle

Unscramble the anagrams, then insert the numbered letters into the boxes below to reveal a hidden phrase.

NBDATUAN

26	12			15			

HUCCHR

		13			19

NAIST

4		11		

MAYR

			16

ODG

1	2	3

SIUNCLIEV

			5				

INULTUOFB

							9

ILCENHKY

							8

ELIF

			20

LFLU

23		27	28

JSSUE

				22

YPNLTE

					18

OROELVIFWNG

6	7		21		24			17	

ASBDUNO

						10

RFSNIAC

						25
						14

1	2	3		4

5	6	7	8

9	10

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

19	20	21	22

23	24	25

26	27	28

Answer on page 16

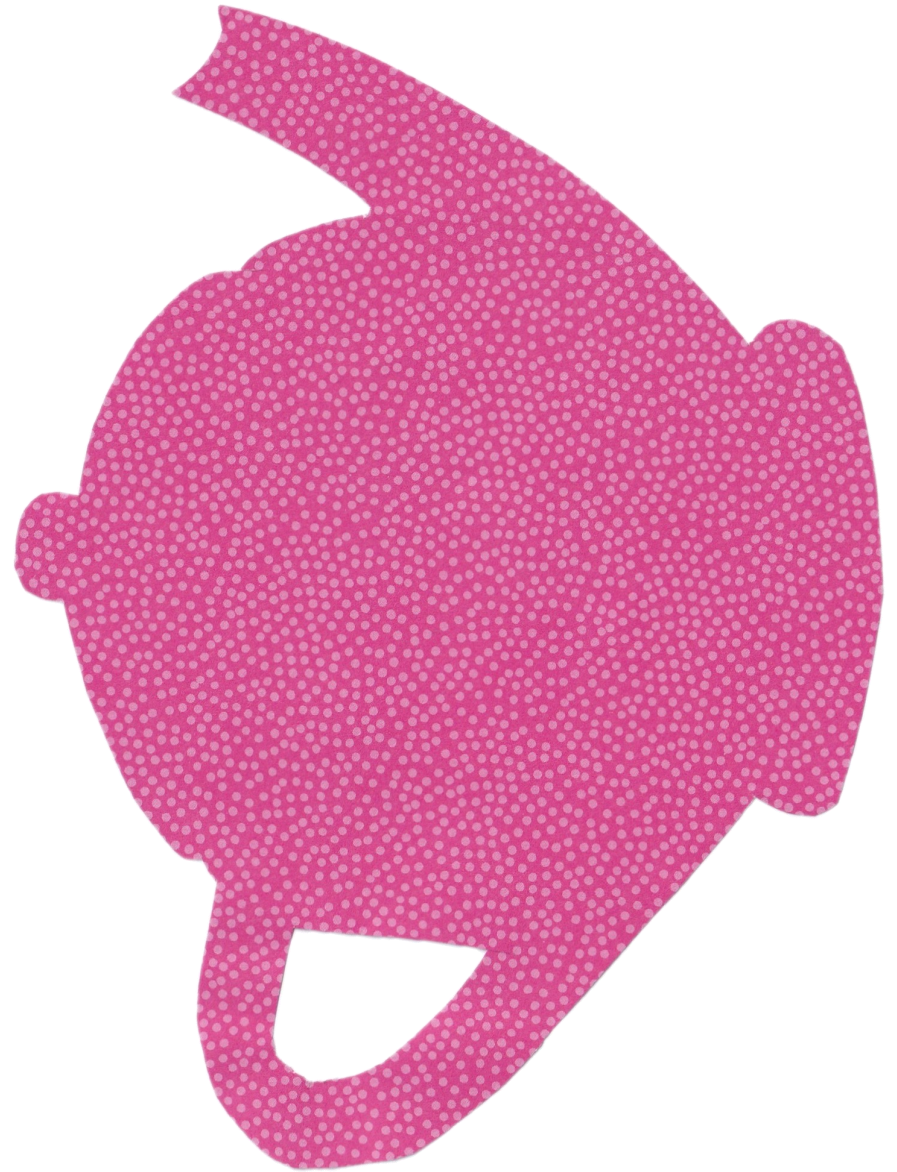
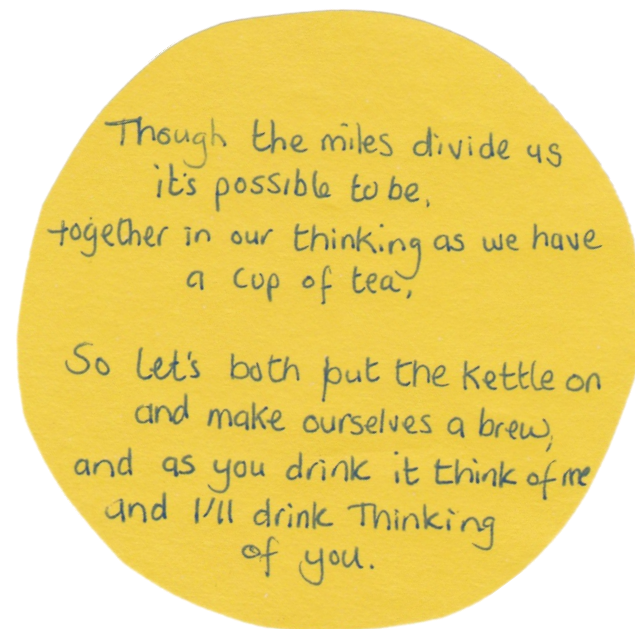
Craft - 'Cuppa Across The Miles' ... Bev Henderson

If like me you love a cup of tea, especially with a friend, this craft is for you. It's very simple, all you need is some paper, any kind will do (origami or wrapping paper is ideal) a tea bag, stapler or sticky tape and a pair of scissors.

Use the template opposite to cut out 2 teapot shapes. You can decorate them however you wish. On a separate piece of paper, you could write the poem as shown on the example below or any message you would like to share. Stick this on one on the teapot shapes and place the teabag between the two shapes fastening them together with a couple of staples or a little bit of tape and you have your cuppa across the miles to send to a friend or family member.

I like to pop them inside a card and send to friends that I may have not been able to see for a while.

(Remember if you're posting one you may have to post as a large letter, as they can be a bit bulky!).



Apple & Mandarin Custard Cake ... Marion Tillson

I found this awesome recipe on the Woolworth New Zealand website - great for the abundance of apples we get in autumn!
Weight conversions from cups are approximate.

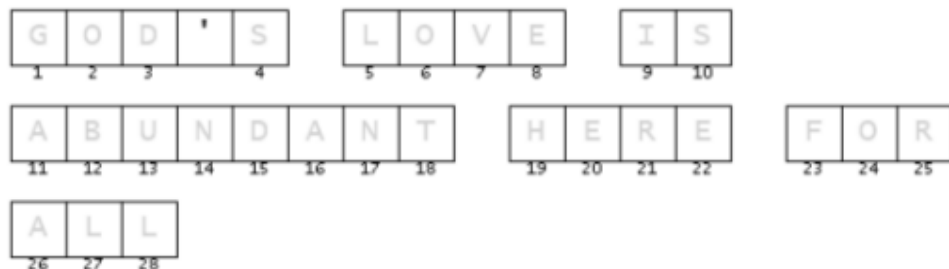
Ingredients:

Butter, softened - 150 g
½ cup (100g) caster sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup (265g) natural yoghurt
1½ cups (225g) self-raising flour
2 mandarins - zested and cut into wedges
3 granny smith apples - peeled and sliced
1 cup (230g) custard
1 tbsp sliced almonds

Method:

- Preheat the oven to 170°C (150°C fan).
- Line a 23cm tin with paper.
- Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, and vanilla. Stir through the yoghurt, flour and mandarin zest.
- Spread half the batter into the base of the tin. Top with the sliced apple and mandarin wedges. Spread over the custard and top with the remaining batter. Sprinkle it with the almonds.
- Bake in the centre of the oven for 50 minutes until soft to the touch in the centre.
- Remove and cool completely.
- Serve!

Puzzle Answer



Pause For Thought - Abundance ... Liz Seal

Finding the balance between being and doing?



Over the last couple of Sundays, the Gospel reading has been the Good Samaritan, then Martha and Mary, and it struck me that these readings speak of doing, and of spending time at Jesus feet, being present with him. I'm defiantly a 'doer', I like to be busy, often dashing from one thing to another. So how to find the balance, and take time to just be?

Martha is busy, preparing food and cleaning house, making ready to serve her guests, maybe Mary has spent all morning dashing about, but then takes the time to listen and learn from Jesus and the disciples. Perhaps that is the lesson I need to listen to - to make space in my busy day, and give the Lord the chance to speak into the spaces between the busyness.

Some of our PCC and Pastoral team recently had a couple of hours in a 'Space to Pray' afternoon, which was wonderful (and will be repeated) and this gave us all time and space to spend time with each other and with the Lord. Silence and inactivity make me nervous, but by being still, even if only for a short time, it feels like there is some balance.

So, get out to the park for a walk and don't plug in a story book or the music, do a few minutes of silent stretching exercises to start the day, sit in the garden and watch the clouds or listen to the birds. The Lord will be there with you.



Charity Focus - MAF ... Alistair Crooks

Overcoming isolation together

On 3 April, His Majesty King Charles III unveiled MAF's latest addition to its fleet. The new Cessna 208 Caravan will serve the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The King revealed the new aircraft to an excited audience at our special 80th anniversary event at RAF Northolt, West London - the Royal Air Force's oldest UK air base. Thanks to the incredible generosity of a charitable trust, MAF's global fleet now comprises 118 aircraft. This new plane will fly to and from the remotest communities in PNG, where our largest programme has been operating since 1951.

The momentous day marked a double celebration as this year is also the 50th anniversary of PNG's independence.

MAF UK Chief Executive Donovan Palmer invited the King to press a big red button, which revealed the shiny, new Caravan as the hangar door lifted behind him. Among the crowd were donors, dignitaries, supporters and staff, including several PNG nationals who were introduced to the King.

MAF Pilot Joseph Tua (Pictured) has worked in PNG since 2019. He will fly the new plane in the service of his people. Proudly wearing his country's ceremonial face paint, Joseph was particularly excited to meet the King - a fellow pilot who'd learnt to fly many decades ago with the Royal Air Force. 'To be invited to the UK for the commissioning ceremony of our newest aircraft and to meet the King is insane!' said Joseph. 'MAF carries everything from patients to tonnes of coffee, sweet potatoes, peanuts and oranges. This new aircraft will help us do a lot more.'

'I never dreamed this amazing thing could happen to me. To be a part of this ceremony means everything. I am eternally grateful.' Fellow Papua New Guinean Serah Michael (Below) - MAF PNG's Flight Operations Supervisor - is the main contact for emergency flights. It was her first visit to the UK. 'I am super excited!' said Serah. 'I never thought I would ever visit the UK. I am proud to be part of this great international organisation bringing help, hope and healing. MAF

is truly a lifeline to rural communities in my country. 'I'm just amazed and excited to meet the King. I'm honoured to be at this ceremony - it's the experience of a lifetime.'

Story: Claire Gilderson & Photos: Andy Aitchison



St Mary's Patronal Festival & Confirmation Service



On Thursday 14th August at 7.30pm we celebrated our Patronal Festival alongside the confirmation of 10 members of our congregation. The candidate spanned the decades from 20s to 70s (some of whom are pictured above). It was a wonderful celebration of our church and of God's love and people coming to faith and celebrating that faith. They were confirmed by the Lord Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, also pictured above with our vicar Reverend Ian Hill. We also had visiting local dignitaries. There was an array of music, prayer and praise. And, of course, tea and cake afterwards to finish the joyous evening. To have ten adult confirmation candidates from one church is unusual and we are truly blessed to have a growing congregation at all four of our weekly services. Please do come and join us, where you will receive a warm welcome. Details of our services are on page 3.

Going Deeper ... Sarah Hill



“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” [John 10:10]

To our consumerist minds this promise of Jesus seems to suggest that believing in him will bring an abundance of riches, pleasures, health and fun. That's certainly the way the so-called Prosperity Gospel suggests the bargain between us and Jesus plays out. But is it really a deal to

be struck between us and God: we give belief and he gives us a wonderful, indulgent and trouble-free life on earth? In that case, why are some Christians poor whilst others are rich, some stricken with poor health whilst others seem to be fit and healthy, why some happy and others not so? Is it that some have more faith than others - how often do the sick get told, “if you just had more faith...!” How damning a phrase that is when you are already at rock bottom and holding on with every fibre of faith you've got left!

No, the Prosperity Gospel is a red herring, something very smelly to lead us away from the true trail with its pungent scent. Life in all its fullness has nothing to do with material health and wealth in this life. The abundance Jesus refers to is both in this life and the next. He wants us to grow an abundance of fruit in our lives, just as we are starting to harvest the fruit and veg in our gardens now, fruit that grows from deep roots, good nutrients, plentiful water, sunshine and warmth. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. These fruits also need deep roots into understanding how our faith holds up to trials and questions, good nutrients of regular feeding from scripture, plentiful watering by the Holy Spirit, an abundance of time in the company of the Son and warmth from our fellow Christians encouraging and supporting us. These things give us life in all its fullness, because riches don't make you happy - granted they may make life more comfortable, but they don't bring love and meaning to our existence. Sometimes the 'manure' that seems to cover us and bury us is exactly what we need to develop deeper roots and grow stronger and more fruitful in the long run.

So, what about the next life then? We tend to think of eternity with a lateral sense of time. A never-ending expanse of time when eventually we will have spoken to all the billions of people in heaven and it will

become dull and boring! But heaven is outside time, because God is outside time and heaven is where God is. We will not be bounded by time, constrained to live in a linear fashion, but free to live as God originally intended us to - without pain, suffering, fear, hatred and insecurity. Free to live in full joy, love and peace. This is where the fruit we have grown on this earth will come to fullness, the more we will be ripe to enjoy heaven and experience all God intended for us. We need to trust that this life is the 'greenhouse' where we are nurtured, fed (sometimes with manure!) and pruned so that we can develop abundant fruit growing potential and live life in all its fulness where time does not decay and spoil, where no caterpillars eat away at us, and no birds can steal what we have grown, no wasps buzz around delighting in what has fallen from our grasp. So, keep your eyes on the prize and don't be distracted by the false image of prosperity now. Abundance takes time to grow, so make the most of your growing season before the harvest!

An Abundance Of 'Health' ... Elisabeth Emmett-Pace

Chronic illness - A patient's perspective #Reality!

Chronic illness is not something that people like to talk about. They would rather think that you get ill, you get treated, you get better. Sadly, it doesn't always work like that. Chronic illness comes in too many forms, both physical and mental, to even begin to list, but I speak from experience of both, both old and new.

However, with chronic illness comes an abundance of all sorts of things. Sympathy, empathy, advice, warm wishes, hugs and hopefully a wish to understand what it feels like. But then there's the flip side. The medical appointments, medications, disappointments when things don't work or when 'they' say they can't help any further. Add in a curveball and that just tops it off! Sometimes it feels like it's the bad news and suffering that tops the charts and the glimmer of light gets dulled. It can be a very lonely place.

I guess it's about finding ways around things, finding ways to still be able to do things. Things that you took for granted, things that you probably never gave a second thought to, things that you see others do with ease.

If you're lucky, family will, in abundance, rally round. But not everyone is lucky enough to have that. So that is when good friends really come into their own.

Having a church family makes a massive difference too and people at St Mary's are definitely abundant! That's where I found my home and the friends that I'm lucky enough to call my family, along with Lilac of course!

But having chronic illnesses, also gives me an inkling of what it is like for other people in similar situations to mine. No two people are the same, so I would never presume to say that I totally understand what someone is going through because I can't, but I can have some understanding. It's given me an abundance of desire to have empathy and time for other people. To listen, to do what I can to help, to be a good friend. I call that a plus side to all of this.

No one can wave a magic wand for us and I certainly don't expect them to (I'm far too old and cynical for that), but people can 'walk alongside us'. Trying to understand how we feel and what we need is massive and goes such a long way.

We are just normal people with 'extra challenges'! We still have lots to give, but sometimes have to do it in a different way to others and society doesn't always like different. But luckily for those of us here, St Mary's likes different! As I was told years ago when I thought about coming back to church, which took courage with my background - 'We take anyone' - and that means EVERYONE!

St Mary's is a special place and I've not looked back since coming here. I've even moved to Hinckley and made it my home. They've got me through all sorts and I'm still here to tell the tale - somehow - often to my disbelief!

St Mary's is abundant in love, friendship, positivity, inclusivity, wonderful people, support and a genuine wish to help everyone who walks through that door. Does that make it abundant in uniqueness? I hope not, although unfortunately it does make it quite rare. But I do know that we are abundantly lucky people to have this place.

As an aside, it seems appropriate to say that World Mental Health Day is again on the 10th of October. This year's theme is about coming together to talk about mental health and show everyone that mental health matters - something that is very dear to my heart. As always, St Mary's is a safe space to talk about mental health and hopefully we will do something to mark World Mental Health Day as we have in previous years, so watch this space!

St Mary's Evening Services ... Heather Craddock

Evening Services on Sunday 6pm An Abundance of Variety!

Did you know?

Sunday evening services offer a variety of styles depending on which Sunday of the month it is, but all start at 6pm.

For the first Sunday we either have Communion or Book Of Common Prayer Choral Evensong (depending on what month it is). On the third Sunday we always have a Communion service. On the second, fourth and fifth Sundays there are lay lead services that can be with hymns or compline.

So, what do we do?

Evening Services consist of hymns, prayers and set words from a service book. The talks are varied in content, perhaps based on the readings, or the focus of a festival day if it falls close by, but always referring to Christ's example.

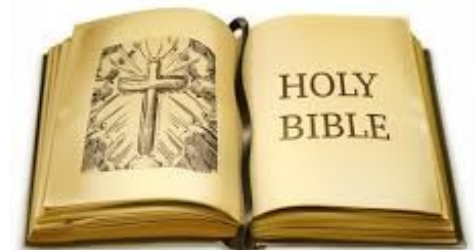
The Compline service is one of quiet reflection at the end of the day without hymns.

The Choral evensong is a sung version of the traditional language Evening Prayer service and is led by our robed choir. There is a wide repertoire of anthems, settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and prayers all sung by the choir, and hymns for the congregation to join in with.

Communion services are usually led by our Vicar and involve hymns and, of course, sharing the bread and wine together.

As a lay minister I enjoy the fellowship at the evening services with a wide range of people worshipping God together, whether I am leading or part of the congregation.

I look forward to seeing you there one day, where you'll receive a warm welcome!



St Mary's Social News ... Catherine Hamilton

June was a bumper month for outreach and raising funds!

The Skittles Night was a great success at The Greyhound with a large all age gathering sharing fun and fellowship over a game or two along with good food. We hope to repeat the event in January 2026.

The Drama Academy Show Case Concert was held in church in mid-June and the audience were treated to a high standard of solos and duets in verse and song. All the young people had achieved an exam or a place at the recent Nuneaton festival of arts. We raised £340 through ticket and raffle sales and are grateful to TDA for returning to St Mary's for this event.

Art Competition and Display 29th June to 5th July which included our annual BBQ for the Soap Box Derby. However, this year we decided to introduce a transport themed art competition. We were thrilled that just over £800 was raised in total and will be put to good use in the upkeep of the church.

The pictures and winners in each category are shown opposite and some were able to receive their prize and certificate at the Sunday family service. It was lovely to see budding artists taking part and such originality.

We have more events coming up for you to join in with. These include our annual BBQ for the Classic Car Show on 21st September for which we're always looking for helpers - or come and buy a burger!

Then there's our 'Church' Drive (think Beetle Drive with a twist) on Saturday 18th October, 5pm-7pm. This will be in church and include a 'chippy supper'. Tickets are £8 with food or £2 without - available soon. It's always a great event!

There's our fabulous annual Christmas Tree Festival - details opposite!

This year a new Wreath Making Workshop will be held in the Church Hall on Monday 8th December, 7pm-9pm. Tickets in advance for £27 will be available from the coffee bar (include refreshments/materials).

Thank you to all who help. If you would like to help or have any ideas for social events, please speak to Liz, Elisabeth, Catherine or Alistair.



This year running longer!!!

**Thursday 27th November 6pm -
Friday 5th December 1pm**

New Category Added:

Mini tree competition (3 foot and under)

Joining: Adult, Child & Education categories

To register your interest please email:

stmarystreefestival@gmail.com

We can then email you information and a link to the entry form when it is available

Thank you!

Come and sing Faure's Requiem

**St Mary's Parish Church
Hinckley**

Saturday 4th October

3.30pm Rehearsal

5pm Break (bring your own food)

6pm Performance

**Please bring your own copy of
the music.**

**Audience admission fee £5
(tickets on the door)**

★ ROOMS ★ for rent

The Centre has a fully functioning kitchen and a beautiful large hall recently refurbished and a private garden area. Dates and spaces are available for one off or regular groups at competitive prices.

Events:

Fashion Show

Friday 14th November

7pm-9pm

Tickets £5

In advance (or on the door)

Wreath Making

Sunday 7th December

4pm-6pm

Ticket £27 In advance only
(Available from October)



Jean Davies triumphed again by raising £575 for the Centre, having walked the Glyndwr's Way, a total of 135 miles!! This will help fund a new oven. Thank you!

St Francis Friendship cafe

Every Thursday
10am until 12pm

Everyone welcome

Tudor Rd, Hinckley, LE10 0EQ



Over the summer a full coach of our regulars went on a Nottingham river cruise - a very successful and enjoyable day.

GOOD NEWS!

Community cafe lunches on a Thursday 12pm-2pm. Low cost items to eat in or take away. Hot and cold food and drinks.

The 25th anniversary of the Centre was marked with an open day where Simon from Refreshment UK sang whilst visitors had toasties, hot drinks and cake.



There were fundraising stalls too supported by the scouts and Shotokan. £320 was raised for the Centre.

10am - 1pm

Wednesday's Lunch Club Social

Two course meal
£6 Unlimited drinks

Must be pre-booked!

Free Coffee Morning Tuesday's
9.30am - 12.30pm

Free WiFi Free Toast

St Francis Community Centre
Tudor Road, LE10 0EQ

Table top sales on the first Thursday of the month during the friendship café. are growing and a good way for you to sell your unwanted items or come along and buy someone else's! Free to have a table.

Your centre needs you!

We are in need of more volunteers. Particularly for one-off events at weekends and in the evenings. If you could spare a few hours please let Lisa know.

All enquiries, including bookings to:
Lisa Wheatley

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

Tel: 01455 617185 Centre Mobile: 07789743846

adminsfcc@stfranciscom.co.uk

Office Hours: Mon, Tue & Wed 9am - 3pm; Thurs 9am - 1pm

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*“I have come that they
may have life, and have
it to the full”
John 10:10*