

## PCC & Ministry News:

The PCC met on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Opening / activities:** On 7 Sep, the PCC reviewed proposals to re-introduce refreshments and other non-service activities. Coffee after the Wednesday service has already started. Coffee after the Sunday service should also start soon. The Friends-in-Deed Community Café, will be up and running from 10<sup>th</sup> November (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month).

### Building:

Work on the vestry is almost complete, with just the final 'snagging' to address, and the site is almost clear. The new railings will take a bit longer as the blacksmith struggles to find the right quality of steel.

### Safeguarding:

DBS renewals are moving from 5 years to 3 years. This means an increased workload towards the end of the year as both 3 and 5 year renewals (and anything in between) will need to be processed.

### Giving:

We have not been passing round the collection plates during the period of COVID restrictions and some of our church membership, who don't already use our regular giving scheme, have asked how they can give. Please contact either of the churchwardens (Vas Mowat or David Pickavance) our Treasurer (Peter Mount) or our Planned Giving secretary (Ian Carter) for advice.

### Charity nominations:

If you would like to nominate a charity (and provide advertising / support) for the forthcoming cycle, please contact any PCC member or email [PCC@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:PCC@stmarysbuckden.org.uk) During the summer, we have continued to support the Godmanchester Foodbank. There is a box by the font for any food donations.

### Pastoral Care:

If you or anybody you know wants someone to talk to or share an issue with in the strictest confidence, please contact our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Marilyn Rolin at [pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk) or telephone on 07719 087215.



**St Mary's is a collection point and voucher holder for Godmanchester Foodbank. If you are in need of help or support, please contact Anne Carter on 07779 651974**

**Cash donations** can be made online via the foodbank website

**Food donations** (non-perishable) can be made via the collection boxes in:-  
- St Mary's Buckden; Nisa Buckden; Budgens Offord Cluny

# St Mary's; The Parish Church of Buckden Newsletter: October 2021



Dear Friends

I was told to lean into Jesus. Actually a friend of mine told me on the eve of my interview for the post of priest in charge here. It was a text message and sent at just the right time. As a result, that evening, I had the notion to relax all my weight into the shoulder of my Lord and Saviour.

On the day of the interview I arrived quite early, I had with me a large tea cosy...Billy Connolly once said "Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cosy, doesn't try it on." Of course, his opinion doesn't validate at all the selfie-with-tea-cozy in front of the church.... but anyway I sent the photo to a friend with the words that I was ready for the interview. Then, of course, I nipped back to the car and threw the tea cosy on the back seat. With some minutes left to spare, I sat on the grass and looked at the beautiful sculpture of Mary above the entrance to the south porch. This relaxed me and I thought about the serious nature of ministry, and particularly about the promises I made when ordained. The words 'lean into Jesus' came back to me. There is an icon I love of Jesus with a named monastic, Abbot Mena. Painted in the eighth century in Egypt it goes by several names. It is often called The icon of friendship, or, Christ and his friend, it is easy to find with a search online. Mena is looking straight ahead, as is Jesus. The wonderful thing is Jesus' arm around the other's shoulders. Mena's fingers are in a position to give a blessing and you can see Christ's hands, one holding a book of the gospels and the fingers of the other on Mena's far shoulder. Everyone needs a friend. Every one of us needs someone to listen, to support us, and at times we are alone, at times we have friends to hand. Either way Jesus, as Abbot Mena knew, is a true, constant and unfathomably good friend. I believe the advice given to me on the eve of my interview here, to lean into Jesus, remains the most comforting. I walked into the interview smiling; Jesus' arm was around my shoulder. I pray that you... lean into Jesus. Do please get in touch or find me if you would like to talk. Tea cosy silliness aside, if anything here has touched a nerve, I am here only for you.

With love,

*Fr David*

**Closing Date for the November Newsletter is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Items by hand to Phil Mowat or by email to [secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)**

## St Mary's Church Buckden: contact information

### The Vicarage, Church St, Buckden, St Neots, PE19 5TL

#### Priest-in Charge

Fr David Sheppard 07792 128503 [fr.davidowainsheppard@gmail.com](mailto:fr.davidowainsheppard@gmail.com)

#### Churchwardens

David Pickavance 07902 867603 [david.pickavance@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:david.pickavance@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

Vas Mowat 07535 922829 [vas.mowat@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:vas.mowat@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

Website [www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

Facebook: **St Mary's Buckden** Twitter: **@A1ChurchBuckden**

Bookings [enquiries@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

**Pastoral Care:** Marilyn Rolin 07719 087215 [pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

**Safeguarding:** Sammy Riley 07720 244255 [safeguarding@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

**Friends in Deed:** [friendsindeed@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:friendsindeed@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

## Church Services & Opening Times

St Mary's is currently open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

**Monday-Thursday** 9am Morning Prayer

**Monday-Thursday** 5pm Evening Prayer

**Sundays** 11am Family Communion Service

**Wednesdays** 9.30am Holy Communion

Days and times may change. Please comply with the safety measures in place and always wear a mask / face-covering in church.

## Events in Church

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm** Friends in Deed AGM in the Living Stones Room  
Guest Speaker: Father David Sheppard  
ALL WELCOME

## Virtual worship, prayer and support continues

Phone / text / email one another

Explore our Website [www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

“Like” our Facebook page: St Mary's Buckden – streamed weekday services

Follow us on Twitter @A1ChurchBuckden

Subscribe to our YouTube channel: St Mary's Buckden – streamed Sunday services

Join our email distribution list: email [consent@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:consent@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

Virtual Saturday Coffee – join us via Zoom at 11am each Saturday. Meeting ID:798-1012-3003 Password: 6WMstJ

If you cannot access any of our online resources, please do let any of us know.

## PRAYER CORNER

### PLEASE PRAY....

**For our community,** all that happens around us, all that we do within it. Help us Lord to share our love with others and to recognise you in the faces, hands, and expression of those we meet. Pray for those whose needs are unknown to us. For the places where people meet to be blessed by you, for your voice to be heard, love and peace to be known, in the playground, village club, bus shelter, pubs, library, footpaths, and shops.

**For the world,** for peace, and peacemaking, healing, and the cessation of violence. For all who are displaced from their homes due to disaster. For Afghanistan. For the Yemen. For those who will attend the COP26 climate change summit to find radical as well as simple means to help us all to save the earth - God's creation - and the species who live on it. For the prayers on our harvest festival prayer boats to be heard. For those who are raising our awareness and provoking change through non-violent resistance to all that threatens the balance of nature and climate.

**For the church,** for our bishops, for all newly ordained deacons and priests, for fruitful ministry that draws close to God, for those who cannot confess their faith publicly for fear of reprisal, and for us to confess our faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour in our words and actions, leaning into Jesus as our friend, comfort, provider, and protection.  
*Amen.*



There are times in our lives when we could all do with a little extra support or companionship whatever our age or circumstance.

### Need someone to talk to?

Our Community Café starts on Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> 2.30-4.30pm. Just pop in for a chat and a cuppa / cake. Or email us and one of our volunteers will contact you [friendsindeed@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:friendsindeed@stmarysbuckden.org.uk).

### Need a lift to an appointment?

Email or call our transport co-ordinator [peter.mount@btconnect.com](mailto:peter.mount@btconnect.com) 07914 669967 giving 48 hours' notice if possible (24 hours minimum). Leave your name, number, address and details of your appointment (date, time, location).

**FRIENDS IN DEED AGM**  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm**  
**in the Living Stones Room**

### ALL SOULS SERVICE

**Sunday 7th November at 4pm**



A Service of Prayers & Readings to remember our loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to add someone to the list of those remembered at the service, please check the list at the back of church or contact [allsouls@stmarysbuckden.org.uk](mailto:allsouls@stmarysbuckden.org.uk)