

PCC & Ministry News:

The PCC met on June 9th and July 13th 2021.
The next meeting will be on 7th September 2021.

Ministry: St Mary's church is now open for private prayer and for visitors 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Morning Prayer at 9am and Evening Prayer at 5pm are being said in church Monday to Thursday each week.

On 7 Sep, the PCC will be reviewing proposals to re-introduce refreshments on Saturday mornings, after Wednesday and Sunday services, and for the Friends-in-Deed Community Café, as well as using the church for other non-service activities. We will keep you posted.

Building:

Work on the vestry is progressing well. The new stainless steel roof is on and there is just the final top layer of stonework and finishing of the render to be done. The new railings 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 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 or telephone on 07719 087215.

CHESS PLAYERS - Would you like a - conversational - game of chess? see Fr David if so. David is hoping to start up a regular Board Games Café, get in touch if you are interested.

Getting Active – Thursday evenings
Meet 7pm outside Lion Hotel to walk or stroll for around an hour then pop in for a drink. All welcome

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



Harvest Time

Dear Friends

A few weeks ago I went up the ladder at the back of the vestry with the stonemasons and had a close look at the beautiful, sensitive, work they are doing. The work is nearly complete and I am looking forward to the area on the ground around there being clear and accessible. In such an historic building it is all too easy to see the stonework as part of the past. To witness this current work as a continuation of all that we do, and all that has gone before us, to make our church as glorious and dedicated to the glory of God as we can feels profound. I also feel it is very moving; it roots me in the church but impels me to go out and tell others of the beauty and mystery of our faith. It is inspiring of prayer; for the witness of the church, the body of Christ, in our hearts, minds, bodies, and building.

A recent conversation regarding the anxiety felt by a generation now in their teens about specific issues that are very different from those pressing when my, and of course earlier generations, were of a similar age has given me much to think about. In light of this, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 22nd there will be a service which I hope will be restorative, and a means of putting to one side all that creates disquiet. An inclusive and welcoming service with prayers for healing and wholeness. The intention is of creating a space in which the beauty of liturgy, resonant music for the cello, a peaceful atmosphere, the healing sacrament of Holy Communion, or a blessing, might be a means of stepping aside from anxiety.

May I also commend to you the service of Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's church in Offord D'Arcy on the 26th at 6pm.

Please pray for me as I pray for you, with thanks for the warm welcome you have given me,
with love and best wishes

Fr David

Closing Date for the October Newsletter is Sunday 19th September.

Items by hand to Phil Mowat or by email to 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

Churchwardens

David Pickavance 07902 867603 david.pickavance@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Vas Mowat 07535 922829 vas.mowat@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Website www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk

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

Bookings enquiries@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Pastoral Care: Marilyn Rolin 07719 087215 pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Safeguarding: Sammy Riley 07720 244255 safeguarding@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Friends in Deed: 07810 006598

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 Service
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 22nd Sept.	6.30pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing & wholeness
Sunday 26th Sept.	11am	Service and Harvest Celebration
Sunday 26th Sept.	6pm	Holy Communion at St Peter's church Offord D'Arcy

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

Virtual worship, prayer and support continues

Phone / text / email one another

Explore our Website 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

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 also for those whose needs are unknown to us.

For the world, For peace, healing, and the cessation of violence. For all affected by the earthquake in Haiti, and the souls of the departed who lived on that island. For Afghanistan. For aid and peacemaking, for those in need due to the devastation caused by the ongoing Yemeni civil war. For attendees of the COP26 climate change summit beginning at the end of October 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 those pilgrims on the way to COP26, and 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 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.



St Mary's is both a collection point and a 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 (see overleaf for opening times); Nisa Buckden; Budgens Offord Cluny



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?

We are hoping to be able to restart the Community Café soon. Look out for announcements. In the meantime, you can email us and one of our volunteers will contact you friendsindeed@stmarysbuckden.org.uk.

Need a lift to an appointment?

Call or email our transport co-ordinator 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).