



June News 2024

On being given the task of opening the newsletter, I really wondered what I could possibly write about until I noticed the submission deadline date of 19th April. This was the date I walked down the aisle of St. Michael's as a young bride to say my marriage vows before God and my future husband. It was Easter Sunday 1992, the daffodils were out, the sun was shining, and the feelings of new life and a new beginning filled the air. Our marriage has been a wonderful journey although not without the challenges and upsets that many people face in life. (Our first obstacle was the marriage itself but that is a story for another day when an ecumenical theme is needed.) Most of all our marriage has been filled with love and happiness. On Holy Saturday I took part in my first wedding as assistant to Rev Fi in the marriage of a lovely young couple of the parish. I pray they too find that their love can overcome all the challenges they will face in life together. Some of those challenges can be harder than others and come with the support of a partner but some, as I have discovered, have to be faced on our own. God too supports us throughout our lives. His love overcomes all even though, in the darkest moment we may forget this, God never forgets us. At Easter we reflect on how God gave the ultimate sacrifice through Christ. May we go through spring and forward towards Pentecost safe in the knowledge that whatever life or this ever-unsettling world throws at us, we have the love and support of God through it all.

Joanne O' Malley

Upcoming Events

Sunday 9th June Eucharist 10.15am

Sunday 16th June Eucharist 10.15 am PCC (Parish Church Council) after the service

Sunday 24th June Eucharist 10.15am



Regular Events: (term time only)

Monday: Family Church 3.40pm in church – all welcome

Second Wednesday of month (just for April 2024): Wednesday 10th April, Walking group 9.30 am at the Croft.

Church Poetry Group at 7pm and 8pm Pub church in the Church Inn – a Christian presence in the pub – **all welcome.**

Third Thursday of month 2pm Mothers' Union in the Croft

Confirmation service with the Bishop, June 16th at 6pm - please support Elizabeth Stubbs and all the other candidates in the service at St Mary's and keep her and them in your prayers.

Dates for your diary - 29th June Summer Fair from 11.00 until 3.00

The stalls will include refreshments in C.C. including hot dogs and baked potatoes.

New for this year Home-made cakes; raffle; general tombola – prizes for all ages; toys – good as new toys and games; gardening - anything to do with the garden/gardening; good quality bric-a-brac; books and jigsaws. Face painting, lots of outdoor games – weather permitting. Donations for any of the stalls can be left at the back of church **from 14th June.** If you would like to help at the event, even if it's only for an hour, please sign the form at the back of church or contact Lesley – tel. 0161 748 0819 or email thewhites.41r@gmail.com



GRAND FINALE

Rev Huw will be participating in a sponsored ice bucket challenge to close the event. You can support him in any of 3 different ways 1) come along and cheer him on and/or 2) join him and participate - see Lesley White 3) sponsor him.

AFTERNOON TEAS - New for this year

At the Summer Fair on Saturday 29th June, we will be serving 'afternoon tea' which will comprise of an assortment of sandwiches/crisps/savoury pastries/cakes including a scone with cream and jam plus either tea/coffee or a glass of prosecco. The cost will be £10.99 per person with tea or coffee or £11.99 per person with prosecco. If 4 tickets are purchased together, the cost will be £40.00 with tea/coffee or £44 with a glass of prosecco. There will be no refunds. The afternoon tea will be served from 13.00 hours on the day of event. Availability is restricted, so tickets **must be** booked beforehand. Book early to be sure of a place. For further information contact Cheryl Leach at cheryl.leach.jen4@gmail.com

Newly elected Parish Church Council (PCC) – welcome and thanks for all your work!

Churchwardens

Lynda Sandbach
Joanne O'Malley

PCC Members

Janice Holland, Barbara Pye, Sue Middleton, Paul Middleton, Nicola Stubbs, Anna Booth, Anna Scarisbrick, Ruth Boyd, Amelia Reeves, Chris Knowles, Louise Collinson, Valerie Phillips, Debbie Gould (Safeguarding officer), Marc Greenough

What are you reading or watching? I love a writer called Sarah Perry. She has a very similar Baptist background to me and feels that though she has left that church - hers was very closed and oppressive - she still can't get away from God! She often writes about the struggle between faith and reason - *The Essex Serpent* - her novel, **now** a series of Apple TV - is one I've loved and read several times. This current one *Enlightenment* is about characters from Bethesda - an old-fashioned Baptist chapel and how they make their way in their world with a particular interest in the stars and comets. Hence the title! There is one scene that really affected me as the main character is gay and has always hidden this in the chapel. One day someone reveals his behaviour to the minister and his daughter who see being gay as a sin. Surprisingly the Minister says 'who will throw the first stone?' but the character who is gay can't handle his own shame. As his two worlds collide, he feels unable to be whole in the chapel and stays away.

The funny thing was I found myself wanting to shout 'but the church doesn't have to like this!' Not all Churches believe this and it's only one interpretation of Biblical truth. Unfortunately for my brother, who was gay, the Baptist church we grew up in did believe this and it was very damaging. We both found our way out of it, and I can't count how many gay people have helped me see God more clearly. I'm thankful that we as a church are inclusive and we celebrate and listen to all who are around us. I've been watching 'Dopesick' on BBC I-player; a drama about the Sackler family in the US making billions out of a drug, OxyContin, which has caused large scale addiction. The drama is testament to the hard work and perseverance of lawyers who just wouldn't give up despite the company buying people off. Very inspiring and eye-opening. **Please send what you've been reading and/or watching to share with us all.**

Rev Caroline



Christian Aid – thanks for all your giving – we raised £193.49 and some donations still outstanding, many thanks to you all and to Cheryl and may for lovely soup!

Items for this newsletter to be sent to: Rev Caroline Bailey carob2000_2000@yahoo.com