

## FOR PRAYER

SICK AND SHUT-IN: Debbie Thornton / Alan Bartlett / Olive Lane / Bryan Walker / Wendy Trent / John Round-Turner / Mary Sharpe / Margaret Watson / Pamela Bowen / Sue Waugh / Cindie Lind / Marlene Jackaman / Jean Marsh / Georgina Simpson / Rob King / Caroline Tea / Sybil Groves / Pam Appleyard / Stuart Voss / Ruby Lee / Jenny Robinson / Peter Brown / Lesley Gill / Ian Ramsay-Helie / Lynne Hayward

DEPARTED:

ANNIVERSARIES: Please see list by ICON and in the magazine

PRAYERS:

- Residents of Freshfields and Millbank
- Local farmers, fruit-growers, florists and gardeners
- Football clubs outside the Premiership, including the Us, the Stutes, and the Tractor Boys (Cambridge United, Histon Town, Ipswich Town)
- EU and UK Brexit negotiations: Deal or No Deal?

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:

for here we receive you,  
here the memory of your passion is renewed,  
here our minds are filled with grace,  
and here a pledge of future glory is given,  
when we shall feast at that table where you reign  
with all your saints for ever.

**Services at St Agnes'.** Please note: Going forward from today, there will be a service of Holy Communion on All Saints' Day, 1 November, 11.15 a.m. There will also be an Act of Remembrance (followed by Matins) on Remembrance Sunday 8 November, at 11 a.m. In December, there'll be Matins at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday December, and Holy Communion on Christmas Day, at 11.15 a.m.

NB: Sunday 8am and Monday evening Communion services at St Mary's will not resume until further notice, nor any worship at St P & E's.

**RECTOR: Fr John Hardy 01638 660729;**

**ASSISTANT CURATES: Revd Cheryl Belding 07801 499179;**

**Revd Jeremy Lind**

**WEBSITE: [stmarysandstagnesnewmarket.org.uk](http://stmarysandstagnesnewmarket.org.uk)**

## NOTICES

**A note of thanks.** It was a real pleasure to join the happy band of "Flower Ladies" to help adorn St Mary's for Harvest. So thank-you ladies for your kindness and friendly welcome which made "a refugee from St P & E" feel so at home. *Pam Morter.*

A big **thank you to Test & Eval via Colin & Judy McCarty** for very kindly supplying me with a WebCam to help me improve and develop on-line ministry. They have both been very encouraging and supportive of this unexpected line of ministry, which as we know is growing across the country. Also positively encouraged by the Bishops. This camera means I can try new things and I ask for your patience with this new development. I also ask for any suggestions or ideas you may have to grow the content. Next Sunday it is hoped that the Service from St. Martins will be life streamed. Please note on-line watchers that means the Service will be on-line from 10.45am and the service starting at 11am. The telephone line will also be available at the beginning of the service. *Revd. Cheryl*

**Mothers' Union AGM.** We have changed the date from the one printed in the 2020 Calendar (the first Friday of October) to Friday 30th October 2020, at 10am (to allow for the secretary to be present as it is half-term). This will be held at St Mary's. Thank you for continued support from all members, including the indoors ones as well as those who are able to make it to services and meetings. *Ruth Kent*

**St Agnes' Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held in St Agnes' parish hall on the last Thursday of October – that's 29 October – at 10.30 a.m.

**A message from Angela at the Food Bank.** "The Food Bank is reasonably well stocked with food at present, although all donations are of course welcome. But no more pasta for a while please! Would folks kindly donate shampoo and shower gel suitable for both men and women, as stocks of these products are very low. Thank you."

**Online worship: a message from the clergy.** We'll continue to offer an online service as a principal Sunday service at 10am (opening up half an hour beforehand) for October. There'll also be a Wednesday evening service at 7pm. As usual, the telephone line will be open for all online services (accessed by dialling 03300 945 940 and using room number 24456910# and PIN 7760# when prompted), and service sheets plus Youtube link will be made available at <https://www.stmarysandstagnesnewmarket.org.uk/service-times/> for you to download.

*The rector writes:* Just to bring you up to date with the outcome of the **SMENN working group meeting** on Tuesday 29 September (Feast of Michaelmas), I need to let you know that the discussion indicated a present need - before we go any further down the road towards benefice unification - for further reflection at St Mary's (both at PCC and at congregational level) on the whole subject of women's priestly ministry, given that, as things stand, a future incumbent of a united benefice (or team ministry) made up of our respective parishes might very well be female.

This possibility is a matter of genuine concern to a number of congregants at St Mary's (although not necessarily a majority), and must, therefore, be given due weight and consideration, according to the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (2014) and their Five Guiding Principles for the Mutual Flourishing of Ministries within the Church of England.

As the archdeacon of Sudbury remarked at the meeting, there is now a formal process to be gone through (by St Mary's, and in particular by St Mary's PCC); further details of which will be publicised in due course. I can tell you now that the substantive discussions about this crucial issue won't take place at St Mary's until after Christmas, and I do not expect any decision to be made until March or April 2021.

However, even if the formalities of the 'marriage' of our benefices (to keep the archdeacon's favourite image) are now on 'hold' until further notice, that is no reason to discontinue our very successful, informal 'engagement', which has seen all sorts of good things happen, to the wider benefit of our common life around the SMENN parishes over last couple years (and more), as was explicitly made clear in the various positive responses I received to the 'Appreciative Enquiry' questionnaire which I circulated to PCC members some three months back.

I hope and pray that we will be able to carry on collaborating and enjoying each other's company, whatever decision St Mary's congregation and her PCC may reach after mature deliberation around the following question: *does my/our theological conviction lead us to seek the priestly (or episcopal) ministry of men and women equally, or of men only?*

Undeniably, though, the extent to which that will be the case 'going forward' (as they say) will, in part, depend on which way St Mary's decides to answer the question. And that applies whether or not my successor as incumbent and/or priest-in-charge is a woman (but especially if she is a woman) - whenever that time may come (and I must point out I'm not planning to leave Newmarket/Exning anytime soon).

In other words, this is a decision with implications for our life together in the parishes of North Newmarket and Exning. But I recognise it is one that must be taken properly and formally, on grounds of conscience - the consciences of those individuals within our church community who cannot accept, on theological grounds, the priestly ministry of women. They are owed that courtesy.

I realise that, depending on your point of view, this communication will come as a bit of a shock - to some, though to others of you it will not seem so surprising. Be that as it may, and speaking as 'head of the household', I'm sure that it's better for our family members to be absolutely open and honest about their scruples at this stage, in order to clear the ground for progressing the amalgamation plan, rather than jeopardise it when we are far advanced in working out the details. We can't agree the finer workings of our ongoing relationship as benefices before we've agreed the principles on which it is to be based. *John Hardy*

Welcome to the  
Benefice of St Mary's Newmarket with St Agnes' Exning  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
11 October 2020

#### READINGS

9.45

Isaiah 25.1-9

Psalm 23

Matthew 22.1-14

6.30

Psalm 139.1-18

Proverbs 3.1-8

1 John 3.1-15

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

***As the church's ministry continues and adapts during the COVID-19 challenge, your prayers are much appreciated by myself and all the clergy at this time. With our prayers and best wishes. Please do not hesitate to be in contact should you wish to speak with one or other of us: Revds John, Cheryl, Jeremy; also Canon Mark.***

**CHURCH SERVICE DETAILS: PLEASE READ ON**





