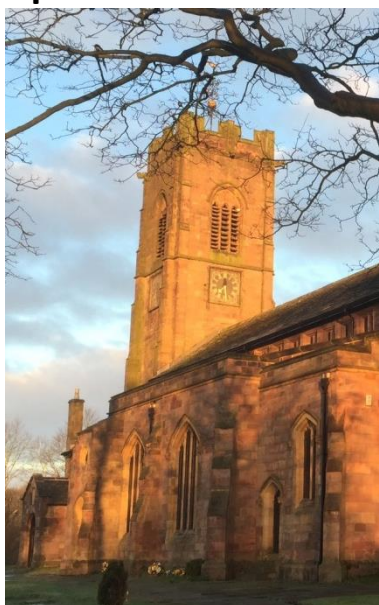


# St Mary's Monthly News

Free or by Donation

## April 2016



### From the Parish Priest

Having kept a holy Lent and celebrated the mysteries of Easter we now turn our focus to our week of mission and celebration. From April 24<sup>th</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup> we are holding a series of free events which are entitled **Going Deeper**. During this week we are praying that our existing members will be able to engage with their faith in new and life giving ways. It is my prayer that when we look back at this week we will see it as a time of renewal and a time when lives are touched by God. Funds left to the church by Gladys Turner are being used to support this week of Going Deeper and it is being led by Bishop Chris, Bishop of Bolton.

We will be having our usual Sunday services to launch the week when we will be thanking God for the many blessings of our parish and our amazing growth. There will be a special service in the evening for our young people. On Tuesday evening we will be hosting an

event for men in the Church Inn called Beer and Believing. Men often find it hard to talk about their faith and this evening is aimed to help them make sense of God in a busy life. On Wednesday Bishop Chris will lead our 10am Eucharist and will lead a Bible Study afterwards. This will be followed by a simple lunch. On Thursday our Pre School Praise families will be given a pack of prayer resources to use together in their homes. On Thursday evening we will invite parents of children at our parish school to an event in the school hall. There will be wine and nibbles and we will reflect on faith and parenting. We will have our usual Friday Eucharist in school when our young people will be invited to reach out to God in prayer. On Saturday night, April 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a marquee on the Rectory lawn and there will be a parish dinner for 100 people. Bishop Jack will be our after dinner speaker and a fantastic three course meal with wine will be served. On Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> we are holding a family BBQ at lunch time and we will still have the marquee. The dinner and the BBQ will require tickets but all of our events are free.

Please put these dates in your diary, pray that God will be at work in this place as we prepare and pray that we will all experience the joy of **Going Deeper** with God. In due course we plan to have a second week of mission when we reach out to new members so that St. Mary's can touch more and more lives.

*With love, Chris (Parish Priest)*

### "Going Deeper" Week Programme of Events

#### Sunday 24 April

0800 Eucharist, with Bishop Chris  
1030 Sung Eucharist,  
with Bishop Chris  
1830 Youth Group Service

#### Tuesday 26 April

1930 Men's evening in the  
Church Inn, with Bishop Chris

#### Wednesday 27 April

1000 Eucharist, with Bishop  
Chris, followed by Bible Study  
and soup & bread lunch

#### Thursday 28 April

1000 Pre-School Praise  
1900 Parents' Evening at St  
Mary's School, with Bishop Chris

#### Friday 29 April

0915 School Eucharist

#### Saturday 30 April

1930 Parish Dinner, with speaker  
Bishop Jack

#### Sunday 1 May

0800 Eucharist  
1030 Sung Eucharist,  
followed by family BBQ.

# Welcome

A new **Welcome** leaflet is now available with information about St Mary's. Particularly aimed at new members of the congregation, you can find printed copies in church and the leaflet is also available as a download on the parish website. Chris writes: *"This leaflet is designed to give you an overview of the church and a flavour of our priorities. The church building is an ancient holy place but we are a forward thinking and progressive community seeking*

*to make sense of our faith and our lives in the twenty-first century. We hope you find a warm and genuine welcome here and we pray that St. Mary's may be a place where you can encounter the wonder of God."*

## Year of Mary - Closing Events



The parish Year of Mary draws to a close this month and the final image in the series featuring our Patron Saint is the Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary (above) situated in the Lady Chapel in St Mary's. The earliest known images of Mary date from the 5th century. In icon painting, almost everything within the image has a symbolic aspect. The Second Council of Nicaea in the 8th century encouraged the veneration of icons by Christians, declaring that *"the more frequently Christ, Mary and the saints are seen, the more are those who see them drawn to remember and long for those who serve as models"*

Final events in our Parish Year of Mary are as follows:

**Wednesday 6 April** at 1000 – Eucharist for the Annunciation

**Sunday 10 April** at 0930 – Closing Eucharist for the Year of Mary, and Annual Parish Meeting.

## Libby Lane makes history (again)



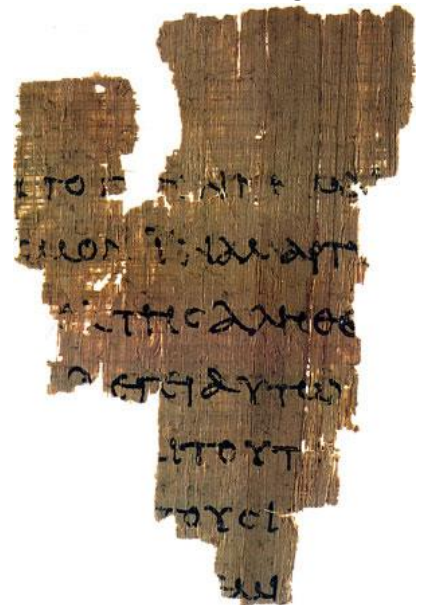
Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport, made history last year when she became the first woman bishop in the Church of England. Recently she broke through another barrier by becoming the first woman to have her portrait hung in the hall at St Peter's College Oxford, where she was a student in the 1980's. (Above the artist Tom Croft is shown working on the portrait).



**The Church Urban Fund** supports local churches as they work to tackle poverty and build community. The Fund's vision is for every church in every community to get involved by giving time, money and prayer. Local events are organised regularly. Among these is a Sleep-Out at the Old Trafford cricket ground on 16 May, aimed at business and civic leaders from across Lancashire being sponsored to sleep out, with proceeds going to the Fund. More information can be found at [www.cuf.org.uk](http://www.cuf.org.uk).

## Bibles in Manchester

The Bible collection at the John Rylands Library on Deansgate, in the centre of Manchester, contains 10,000 items and is of major importance in Biblical studies. The collection began in 1892 and it includes Bibles in more than 400 languages spanning five centuries, among them a Gutenberg Bible dating from 1455 and nearly a hundred Latin Bibles printed before 1500. The Rylands Library also holds the "St John's Fragment"



which is considered to be the oldest surviving written New Testament record in the world. This piece of papyrus (measuring only 9x6cm) contains part of chapter 18 of the Gospel of St John, written in Greek. The Fragment is on permanent display in the Rylands Library.

## St Mary's parish prayer

Loving Father, we pray your blessing on our parish. Help us to have hearts open to your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to follow the way of Christ. Strengthen us to be faithful in prayer and loving service. Help us to play our part in building up your Kingdom here and now.

# St Mary's Monthly News

## Diary Dates

**Sunday 10 April** – 0930 Annual Parish Meeting & Closing Eucharist for the Year of Mary.

**Sunday 24 April** – “Going Deeper” Week begins.

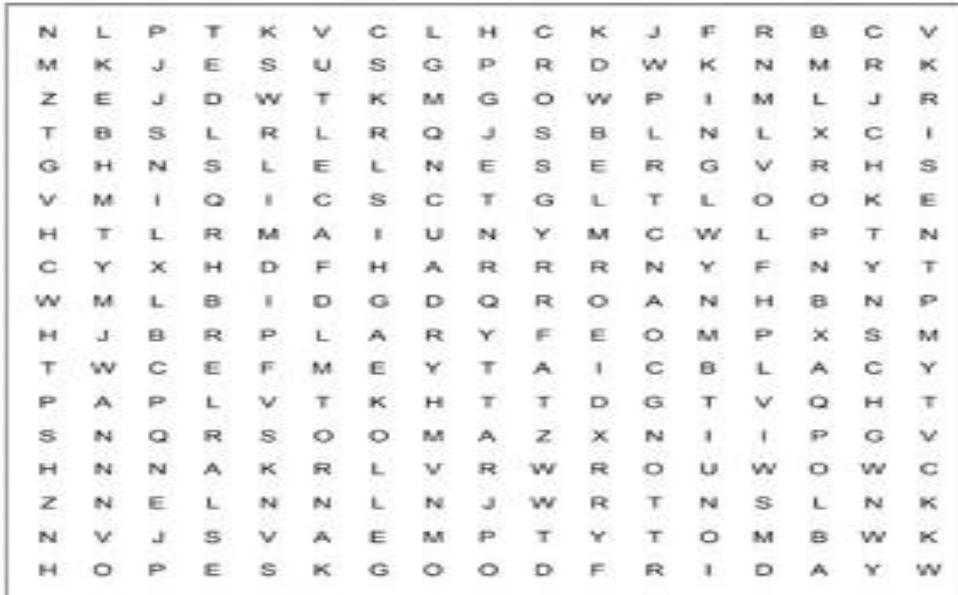
**Thursday 5 May** – Ascension Day evening Eucharist at St George's Simister (time to be confirmed)

**Sunday 15 May** – Pentecost Sunday

**15-21 May** – Christian Aid Week

**Sunday 12 June** – Mission Partnership Confirmation

## Easter Word Search



- |                 |       |              |  |
|-----------------|-------|--------------|--|
| Angel           | Holy  | Messiah      | Savior   |
| Cross           | Hope  | Resurrection | Third Day  |
| Crown of Thorns | Jesus | Risen        |  |
| Easter          | King  | Sacrifice    |  |
| Empty Tomb      | Love  | Salvation    |  |
| Good Friday     | Mary  | Sunday       |  |



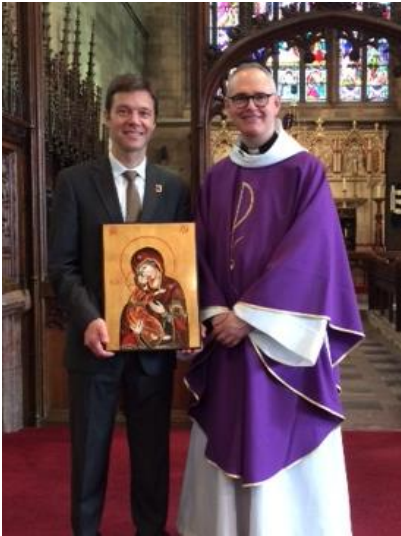
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is God's "Yes" to Us

“In the resurrection, the body of Jesus leaves the tomb, and the tomb is empty. Just how is it possible that the mortal, perishable body is now present as the immortal, imperishable, transfigured body remains a mystery to us. Perhaps the different versions of the disciples’ encounter with the Resurrected help to make clear that we ourselves are unable to imagine what is meant by this new bodiliness of the Resurrected. We do not know that it is the same body — for the tomb is empty; and that it is a new body — for the tomb is empty. We do know that God has judged the first creation, and has created a new creation in the exact image of the first. It is not an idea of Christ that lives on, but the real, physical Christ. That is God’s yes to the new creature in the midst of the old creature. From the resurrection we know that God has not abandoned the earth, but has reconquered it, has given it a new future, a new promise. The same earth that God created bore God’s Son and his cross, and on this earth the resurrected appeared to his disciples, and to this earth Christ will return on the last day. Whoever affirms Christ’s resurrection in faith can no longer flee the world, but neither can they fall prey to the world, for in the midst of the old they have recognized God’s new creation. “

The short article above is extracted from **Reflections on Easter** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945). Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor who spoke out prominently against the Nazis. He was arrested by the Gestapo and hanged in Flossenburg concentration camp just before the end of the second world war in April 1945. He is commemorated in the Church calendar every year on 9 April. His statue (pictured above) is one of ten "modern martyrs" now commemorated in the West front of Westminster Abbey in London.

## Farewell Mr Fish



Jonathan Fish, Head Teacher of St Mary's School for the past nine years stepped down last month. Here Mr Fish is pictured on his last Sunday at St Mary's receiving the gift of an Icon of Mary.

## Pentecost Sunday – recalling our Baptism on 15 May 2016



Pentecost Sunday this year falls on 15 May. During the 1030 Eucharist we will **renew our baptism promises** and we are inviting families who have celebrated a baptism over the last year at St Mary's to join us then, as we will pray for the recently baptised by name:

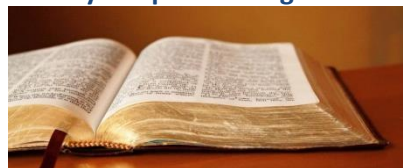
*Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen*

## News from the Parochial Church Council

At its recent meeting the PCC:

- Reviewed **parish finances**, which have been nothing short of transformed through our stewardship campaign and the generosity of so many.
- Looked at detailed plans for our **Week of Mission** "Going Deeper" (see page 1), and agreed to use the legacy from Gladys Turner to fund this.
- Received a report on the newly-launched **Pre-School Praise** service, which is extremely well-attended.
- Reviewed progress on the **Mission Action Plan**, and thanked God for all that had been achieved in the past year under the leadership of the PCC.
- Agreed to join **the Inclusive Church** network, meaning that people will more easily be able to find us, if they are looking for a church of the liberal tradition.

## Sunday Gospel Readings



### 3 April

0800 John 20: 19-23  
1030 John 20: 19-end

### 10 April

0800 John 10: 11-16  
1030 John 21: 1-19

### 17 April

0800 John 16: 16-22  
1030 John 10: 22-30

### 24 April

0800 John 16: 5-15  
1030 John 13: 31-35

Full listings of the lectionary readings used at St Mary's can be accessed on the internet at [almanac.oremus.org](http://almanac.oremus.org)

## Regular worship at St Mary's

### Eucharist

Sunday 0800 & 1030

Wednesday 1000

Thursday 0730 in the Oratory

Friday 0915 in St Mary's School

### Morning Prayer in the Oratory

Tuesday Wednesday Friday 0730

*The Oratory is in the Rectory, Church Lane*

## Children are a valued part of our community.

**Junior Church** meets on Sunday at 1030. The Prestwich Mission Partnership **Youth Group** meets on Sunday at 1830. **The 22<sup>nd</sup> Prestwich Scout Group** meets on weekday evenings. **Pre-School Praise** is on Thursdays at 1000. We enjoy a close relationship with our **Parish School**. More information at: [www.stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups](http://www.stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups).



## Contact us

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Dutton telephone 07931 293470

**We welcome contributions** to St Mary's Monthly News by email to [stmarysprestwich@hotmail.com](mailto:stmarysprestwich@hotmail.com)