

St Mary's Monthly News

January 2016



From Jules Mambu, Assistant Curate

"We are all humans" - I was delighted to accept the position of Assistant Curate in the parish of St Mary the Virgin Prestwich after a consultation meeting with Rev Chris Wedge. I met a man of integrity, faith and conviction. That's why I wanted to work with him and the congregation.

St Mary's vision statement does not exclude members on the grounds of gender, race, class, sexuality or disability. St. Mary's seeks to be totally inclusive. We are all made in the image of God: tall, short, male, female, blue eyes, brown eyes, black, white....The miracle of being human is that we are all individual, even identical twins. We all have different strengths and limitations; and even preferences. God has called us to be together, to work together, to celebrate life and death together as members of same family.

I strongly believe in inclusivity and diversity in life. Jesus's vision is always to make the church a place which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power,

gender, mental health, physical ability, race and sexuality. We all bring with us diverse perspectives, work experiences, life style, gifts and cultures to make our community a place where God is always present. We must see the love of God in every human being. So we must cultivate tolerance, mutual respect and understanding between us. Building an inclusive church is a dynamic process which needs patience, respect, faith and prayers.

Let God make St Mary's a place which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ - because we are all humans.

Jules Mambu, Assistant Curate

Rev Jules Mambu will be welcomed as Assistant Curate of St Mary's at a service to be held on Sunday 24 January at 1500.



Green Christian is a charity which helps Christians to understand our responsibilities for our impact on God's creation, and to relate this to our faith. Green Christian was formed in 1981 and supports Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. One of the charity's patrons is James Jones, former Anglican Bishop of Liverpool. Visit the website at www.greenchristian.org.uk for more information and free resources including prayer guides, information on campaigns, publications and articles.

Year of Mary



Next in our *Year of Mary* is the celebration of the **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**, or Candlemas, which will take place on Sunday 31 January at 1030. This occasion is also known as the **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. With Mary we pray: *Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.*

Christmas in the Holy Land



The West Bank city of Bethlehem (meaning 'house of bread'), just south of Jerusalem, is celebrated as the birthplace of Jesus. The cave-birthplace (pictured above) can be visited underneath the huge Basilica of the Nativity, which is the oldest complete church in the Christian world. In 1995 Bethlehem came under the administration of the Palestinian Authority and the city now has a Muslim majority population.

Mary around the Globe



This month's image of our Patron Saint features the rock cave at Lourdes in France, where Bernadette Soubirous (later canonised as St Bernadette) claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858. Lourdes has become one of the greatest pilgrimage sites of the world - one of its churches can accommodate 25,000 people.



The Children's Society is a national charity which runs local projects, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable. The charity also campaigns for changes to laws affecting children and young people. Last year the Society worked directly with over 34,000 vulnerable children. The charity was founded in 1881 by Edward Rudolf, a Sunday school teacher, and its partnership with the

Church of England has been of central importance ever since. The current chair of trustees is the Bishop of Truro. Members of St Mary's have supported the work of the Children's Society for many years. Find out more at: www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Junior Church news



Leaders from our Junior Church were recently awarded a Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry (Level 2). Above Jo Conchie, Emma Chadwick and Jo Parkinson are pictured in Manchester Cathedral with Bishop Mark.

The Social Gospel by the Bishop of Manchester

"Several times a week I walk across Manchester's city centre. In the two years I've been making this walk the number of people sleeping in doorways, or sitting quietly behind polystyrene cups with a few coins in the bottom, must have doubled. To the ones who are awake I offer a greeting and a blessing; if they look ready for it, I stop for a brief conversation. Around the city centre there are a number of projects offering support to rough sleepers. Pretty well all of them are run by Christian groups. One was housed in Manchester cathedral until last year, when we had to move it into much bigger premises. From time to time I drop in on one of the schemes and spend a while

chatting to the men and women who make use of the facilities. Between the conversations on the streets and those in the centres I've been able to build up a bit of a picture of what pushes people out into sleeping in Manchester's doorways and carparks, and what makes it so hard for them to get back to having a home. Hearing the voices of street sleepers, and beginning to recognise both the individuality and the repeated patterns in those voices, has equipped me for the task of speaking out, and the pastoral becomes the political, albeit a politics without party affiliation. But it goes deeper than that. Alongside the encounters I have in streets and projects I am laying my encounters with God, in my reading of scripture, my participation in liturgy and in my prayers. All these become part of the pattern. They make me part of it too, forming and reforming me in the process. So when I speak out about homelessness, or take some action to combat it, I'm doing so from the heart of my theology and my spirituality."
Adapted from an article by Bishop David Walker in a recent edition of **Affirming Catholicism Review**.

2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A New Year Prayer

Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity. Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith. Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world. Jesus, Lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future.

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Diary Dates

Saturday 16 January - Beetle Drive with pie & pea supper.

Sunday 17 January – Prestwich Mission Partnership Anniversary Service at St Mary's at 1030.

Sunday 24 January – Welcome service for Rev Jules Mambu at 1500, with the Bishop of Manchester.

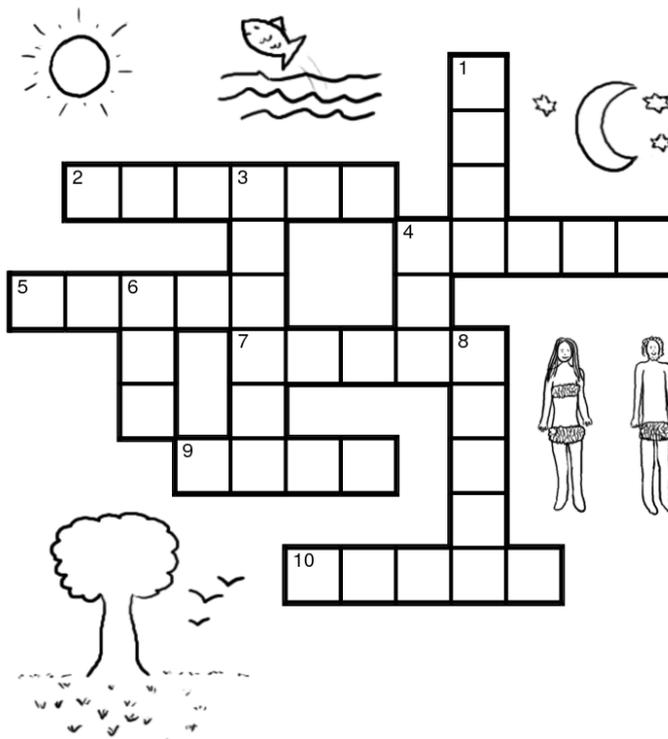
Saturday 6 February - Church *Mardi Gras* Party

Sunday 7 February – the Bishop of Bolton will be presiding at the 1030 Eucharist at St Mary's.

Wednesday 10 February – Ash Wednesday

Saturday 20 February – Lent Quiet Day (Lent with Mary)

Crossword Puzzle – The Creation Story - Read about it in Genesis Chapter 1



Across

- 2 God created the moon on this day (6)
- 4 The earth was this before the creation (5)
- 5 God created these on the 5th day (5)
- 7 God created these on the 3rd day (5)
- 9 The name of the Garden the man and woman lived in (4)
- 10 God created this on the 1st day (5)

Down

- 1 The name of the man that God created (4)
- 3 God did this on the 7th day (6)
- 4 The name of the woman that God created (3)
- 6 God created the woman by taking this from the man (3)
- 8 God created land creatures on this day (5)

Lent



God our Father, in your love and goodness you teach us to come close to you with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall in our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Lent begins on 10 February

Ash Wednesday Eucharist – 10 February at 1000

Midweek Lent Group – look out for details nearer the time

Lent Quiet Day (Lent with Mary) - Saturday 20 February

GREATER MANCHESTER WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

A joint venture between the Diocese of Manchester and Church Urban Fund, has brought together a group of 6 churches to provide overnight shelter to homeless men who would otherwise be sleeping rough. **The Greater Manchester Winter Night Shelter** is being piloted from January – March 2016 and is part of a wider campaign to improve services for homeless people across Greater Manchester. For more information and to find out how to provide support visit www.gmwns.wordpress.com.



The "Five Marks of Mission"

express the Anglican Communion's commitment to, and understanding of, God's mission. **The Five Marks of Mission are:**

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

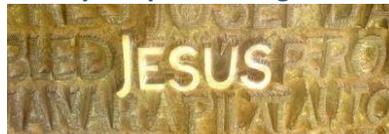
Gospel Imprint is a new Anglican publishing organisation sharing free resources with all Christians who seek to learn, worship and

witness to the generosity of the Kingdom of God.

gospel | imprint

Gospel Imprint affirms all that is positive, inclusive and joyful within a Christian tradition that is orthodox and liberal, open and catholic. Short leaflets are available on topics such as **Who is Jesus?, How can I pray? Baptism, the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary**, All the resources are available free at www.gospelimprint.com

Sunday Gospel Readings



3 January

0800 Matthew 2: 1-12

1030 Matthew 2: 1-12

10 January

0800 Luke 2: 41-end

1030 Luke 3: 15-22

17 January

0800 John 2: 1-11

1030 John 2: 1-11

24 January

0800 Matthew 20: 1-16

1030 Luke 4: 14-21

31 January

0800 Luke 2: 22-40

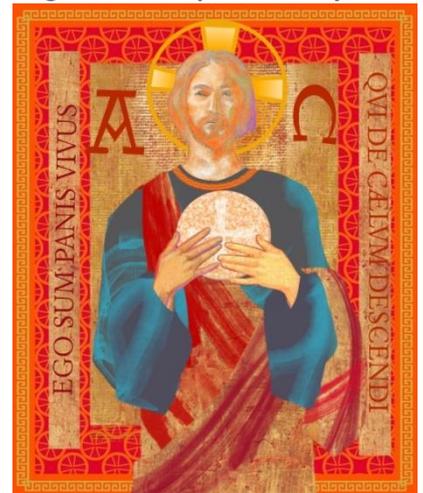
1030 Luke 2: 22-40

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. **Uniformed Organisations** meet on weekday evenings. We enjoy a close relationship with our **Parish School**. More information at: www.stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups.



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

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