

St Mary's Monthly News

October 2015



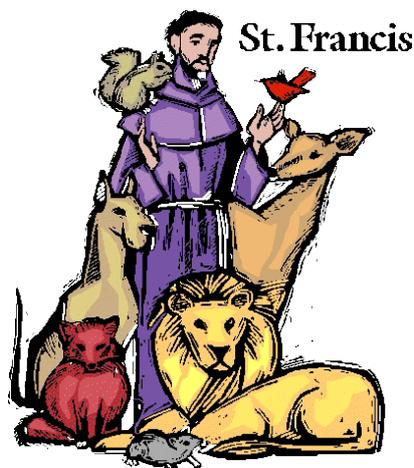
From the Parish Priest

In some churches this time of year is kept as **Creationtide**, the time of the year when we focus on the gifts of the earth and our responsibility for the planet. This seems to make sense when Harvest Festivals are being celebrated.

Environmental issues are near the top of the political agenda in many countries and are of huge significance. Many churches are making strides towards reducing their carbon footprint and being better stewards of the resources God has gifted them. At St. Mary's the Churchyard Action Group have worked hard to create an environment of beauty in our grounds and week by week maintain our large graveyard for the benefit of us all. Our heating system is old and expensive to operate and is badly in need of renewal. It is a mission imperative that we make our building warm and welcoming to all who use it but we also have a duty inherent in our faith to use less fossil fuel. These are the practical dilemmas that we all face in our own lives as well as in

church. I was recently at a presentation about these questions and it was suggested that human beings are consuming twice as many resources from the earth as is sustainable. If we really care about living responsibly and faithfully we need to look at ways of using less, living more gently and having greater regard for future generations. Perhaps this month you might want to make creation the focus of your prayers, thanking God for the earth and asking for wisdom on how to live more responsibly and with greater awareness of the fragility of the earth.

With love, Chris (Parish Priest)



St Francis is commemorated on 4 October. Francis wrote a 'Canticle of the Creatures', celebrating all living things, translated in the hymn *All creatures of our God and King*. Traditionally this is a time of the year to give thanks for the companionship of animals:

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his

brothers and sisters. We give thanks and praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!

We will mark Sunday 4 October with a **Harvest Festival Eucharist** at St Mary's at 1030, with donations for Porch Boxes.

Flowers at St Mary's



Flowers adorn the church and enhance our worship. Contributions towards the cost are always appreciated. If you would like to make a donation to mark a particular occasion, please consult the list of dates at the back of the church. £20 pays for altar flowers or £10 for a pedestal arrangement. For more information contact Elaine Davies (telephone 0161 773 9172)

Espresso Church meets at Costa Coffee in the Longfield Centre, Prestwich on the first Thursday evening of every month at 1845. For more information, find us on Facebook at *Espresso Church - Prestwich*.



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Toddler Praise

Launching in November 2015 at St Mary's, a short time of prayer and praise - planned with toddlers in mind - followed by refreshments for parents and toddlers. **We will be meeting weekly on Thursday mornings from 1000-1100.**



Look out for more information on the weekly pew sheet and on St Mary's website. All welcome.

St Margaret's Prestwich



This Autumn we welcome the Revd Deborah Sandercock-Pickles as the new Priest in Charge of St Margaret's Prestwich. Within the Prestwich Mission Partnership Deborah will also serve as curate of St Mary's and we look forward to sharing in her ministry in Prestwich.

World Mental Health Day - 10 October 2015 is the annual global celebration of mental health education, awareness and advocacy.

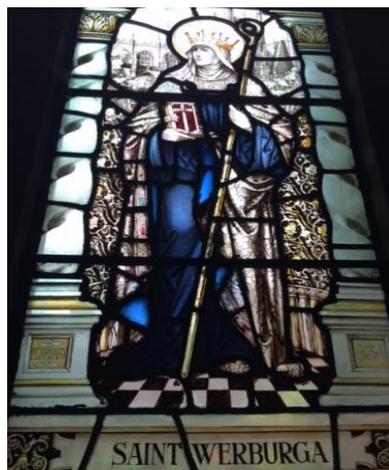


At St Mary's we will be marking the occasion in a special time of prayer for the patients of the Prestwich Hospital interred in our

church yard. Former patients will be remembered by name during the 1030 Eucharist on Sunday 11 October, with visiting preacher the **Bishop of Beverley** (Assistant Bishop of Manchester). Before being ordained Bishop Glyn worked as a nurse and he has also served as a hospital chaplain. At this special service of commemoration and prayer for all living with mental health issues today, we will also be welcoming Fr David Sutton, Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Co-ordinator at Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust - the organisation now based on the site of the former Hospital.

Day Visit to Chester

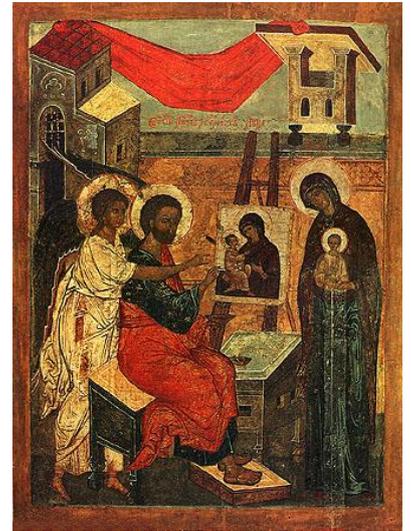
Saturday 5 December As part of our parish Year of Mary we are organising a day visit to Chester, to include Evensong at the **Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Chester Cathedral contains the shrine of St Werbergh an 8th century abbess of Ely and now the patron saint of Chester.



During our visit the **Chester Christmas Market** will be in full swing, consisting of seventy traditional wooden chalets

situated in the heart of the city, offering festive treats and gifts.

St Luke - on Sunday 18 October we shall be celebrating St Luke's Day. It is believed that Luke was a Greek physician who lived in the city of Antioch. Christian tradition suggests that he was the first icon painter and he is pictured here painting an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary:



St Luke is revered as patron saint of doctors and of artists.

Historic Churches

St Mary's is a Grade I listed building with a history which can be traced back to 1200s. If you are interested in the art, architecture, preservation and development of historic churches, you might want to know more about the work of the Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society. Members have the opportunity to visit churches of interest and there is a regular newsletter. More details can be found at: <http://www.manchesterchurches.btck.co.uk/>

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Diary Dates

Saturday 3 October – Church Fair

Sunday 4 October – Harvest Festival service

Sunday 11 October – Prestwich Hospital commemoration with the Bishop of Beverley

Sunday 18 October – St Luke's Day

Saturday 21 November – Advent Quiet Day – Praying with Mary (*NOTE CHANGED DATE*)

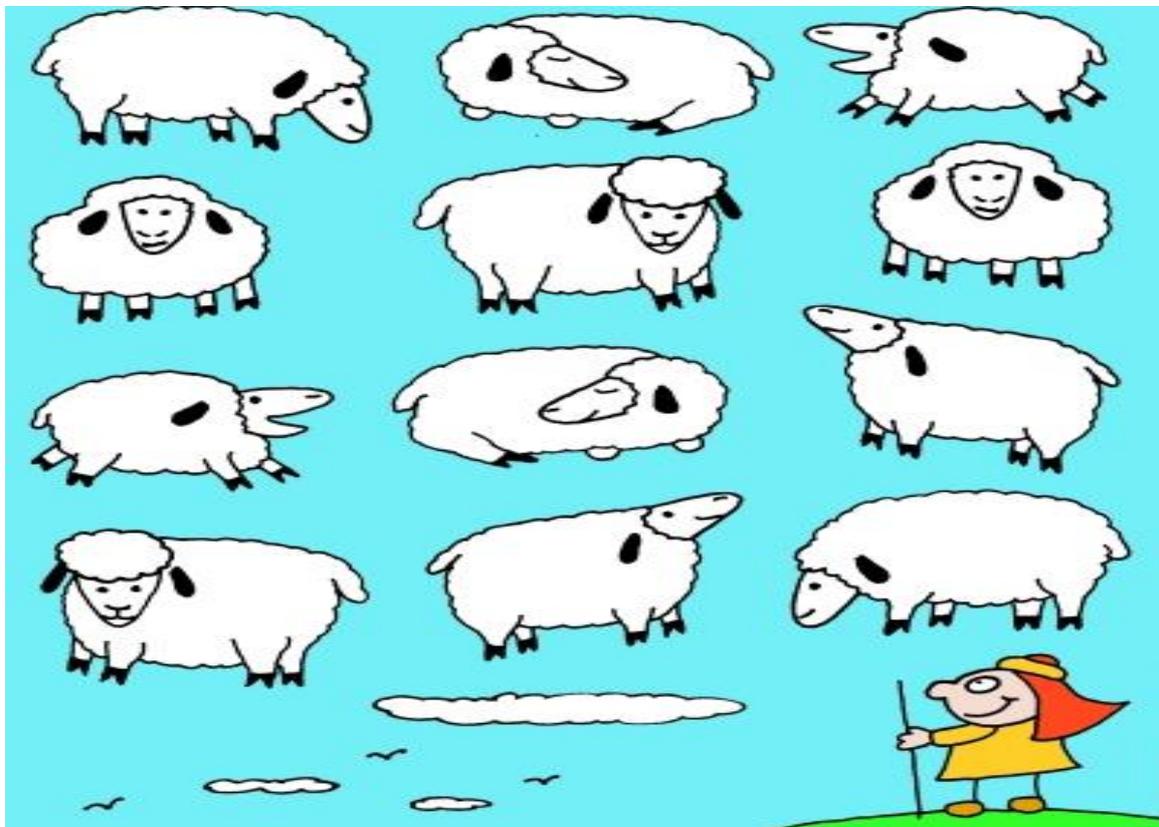
Saturday 28 November – Christmas Fair

Social Events

In addition to the trip to Chester (5 December) featured earlier, a future programme of parish social events is being planned, to take place over the coming months. Look out for more details of a Mardi Gras evening; Beetle Drive with pie & pea supper; and a Church Birthday Party. Further information will be available nearer the time.

Spot the Difference - Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Read John 10: 11-18 then see if you can match the sheep with their correct exact reverse copies.



First Holy Communions

We are celebrating first Holy Communions for Year 3 pupils at St Mary's School on **Sunday 1 November** at the 1030 Eucharist. On the same day we are marking **All Saints Day** and the service will be followed by a Jacobs Joy lunch.

Please remember our young people in your prayers at this special time.



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News from the Parochial Church Council

Matters recently discussed by the PCC include:

- The improved financial position of St Mary's – projecting a healthy surplus budget for the year.
- Developments in parish communications, including increased use of social media.
- Production of a 'Welcome Pack' of information for those new to St Mary's.
- Unanimous support for Adele McKie offering for Ordained Local Ministry – she will now go forward for selection.

Regular worship at St Mary's



Eucharist

Sunday at 0800 & 1030

Wednesday at 1000

Thursday at 0730 in the Oratory at the Rectory

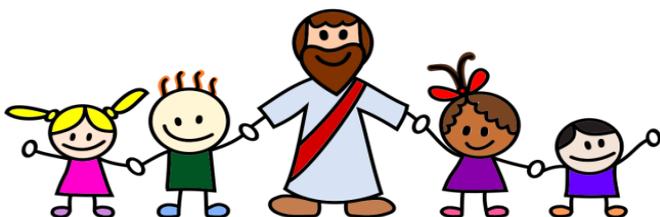
Friday at 0915 in St Mary's School

Morning Prayer in the Oratory at the Rectory

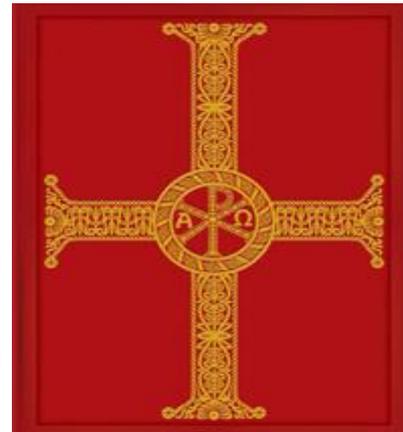
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at 0730

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. Launching in November, **Toddler Praise** will be on Thursday morning from 1000-1100. We enjoy a close relationship with our **Parish School**. For more information see the St Mary's website at: www.stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups.



Sunday Gospel Readings



4 October

0800 Mathew 22: 34-end

1030 Matthew 6: 25-33

11 October

0800 Matthew 9: 1-8

1030 Mark 10: 17-31

18 October

0800 Luke 10: 1-9

1030 Luke 10: 1-9

25 October

0800 John 4: 46-end

1030 Mark 10: 46-end

Contact us

Website: www.stmarysprestwich.org

Twitter: [@stmarysprestwich](https://twitter.com/stmarysprestwich)

Email: stmarysprestwich@hotmail.com

Post: St Mary the Virgin, Church Lane, M25 1AN

Parish Priest: Chris Wedge tel 0161 773 2912

Church Wardens: Stewart Barnet tel 07950 354445;

Julia Dutton tel 07931 293470

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.

We welcome contributions to St Mary's Monthly News by email to stmarysprestwich@hotmail.com