



**St Mary's Church**  
Prestwich GROWING • GIVING • SERVING



**open days 14/15 & 21/22 September**

Monthly News—September 2019

Free

### Welcome

Welcome to this edition of our Parish monthly news and round up.

September is, for many of us a time of new beginnings.

This month marks our **Patronal Festival** on Sunday 8 September when we celebrate life with Mary our patron saint. This is a time for giving thanks to God for all that is good in our life together. The Venerable Karen Lund, Archdeacon of Manchester, will be our preacher and I hope you will all prioritise being together on this special day. Later in the autumn or early winter, no news on a date yet, we hope to welcome our new rector, the **Revd Shaun Conlon**, currently Priest at St. Martin's, Ashton on Mersey within the



diocese of Chester. Please be praying for Shaun as he prepares to join us to grow the kingdom in this place.



### SAINT MARY'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

**Sunday 8 September 10-30am, All are welcome**

Early September sees Rev. Carole on a 3-day Preaching seminar in Oxford and the return of Junior Church, Youth Group and Pre School Praise and of course the Parish School returns after the summer break.

We also witness this month the launch of our Heritage Programme, endorsing our commitment to promote St. Mary's history and heritage to worshipers and the wider community and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund beginning with four weekend open days.

This month we continue our theme of Stillness with offerings designed to give those who come a time to be silent with God and fellow pilgrims and to come more deeply into the light and love of God. We pray that in the coming months we will all enter more deeply into the presence of God and that our life at St. Mary's will be enriching and will lead us into life in all fullness.

*Stewart— Church Warden*

### Pre School Praise



PreSchool Praise is back in action this month and opens its doors with a new look on Thursday 12 September 10-00am for ages 0-4yrs and their carers.

For further details look up the website:

<https://stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups/pre-school-praise/>

twitter @stmaryprestwich and Prestwich Mum's for news and updates.

### Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. 8 September 10-30am— Patronal Festival

The Church has traditionally portrayed the Blessed Virgin Mary together with the apostles and disciples gathered at that first Pentecost, joined in

prayer with the first members of the Church. The title, *Mater Ecclesiae* is found in the writings of Berengaud, bishop of Treves (d. 1125). In the 1895 encyclical *Adjutricem populi* (Helper of the People) Pope Leo XIII wrote, "She is invoked as Mother of the Church and the teacher and Queen of the Apostles".



Following the title's usage by Leo XIII, it was later used many times in the teachings of John XXIII and Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

The use of the *Mater Ecclesiae* title to the Virgin Mary goes back to Ambrose of Milan in the 4th century, but this was not known until its 1944 rediscovery by Hugo Rahner. Rahner's Mariology, following Ambrose, sees Mary in her role within the Church. His interpretation, based solely on Ambrose and the early Fathers, greatly influenced Vatican II and Pope Paul VI, who, quoting Ambrose, declared Mary the "mother of the Church"

### [Meet our New Parochial Church Council Secretary.](#)

At our most recent PCC meeting Savannah Alexander was elected by the council to serve as Secretary. Although no stranger to council matters, being elected last year as a member, we welcome her as an Officer. Please support her and her family with your prayers as



she takes on this vital role in the smooth running of business in the parish.

### [Heaven Scent—Biblical Smells](#)

[Ted Harrison follows his nose through the Bible](#)

CHRISTIANITY can be an olfactory faith. Smell plays an important part in the biblical narrative, from the aromas of burnt offerings in the Old Testament through to the precious perfume used shortly before the Passion to anoint Christ. From Genesis 2 to Revelation 18 there are more than 200 references to perfume, odour, and smell.

The old Temple in Jerusalem must have produced an overpowering stench of sweaty humans, frightened animals, burning flesh, and incense. The scene of the resurrection must have had a distinctive smell of embalming chemicals mixed with the early morning scents of garden plants.

Some of the substances referred to in *Perfumes in the Bible* are familiar. Frankincense and myrrh are central to the nativity story as two of the gifts of the magi. Yet there were also many rare and exotic scents available to the people of the ancient world, with names that are no longer instantly recognised, such as onycha, galbanum, styrax, and nard. Matching the original Hebrew and

Greek to modern names was not always a matter of straightforward translation, and required additional linguistic research.

Frankincense is collected as "tears": nuggets of a pale-yellow resin that oozes from wounds cut in the incense tree, one of the *Burseraceae* family. As with many types of tree, when the bark is damaged nature responds by producing a chemical to protect the tree from bacterial and fungal attack. The chemical solidifies to form a substance that exudes a fragrant smoke when burned.

Myrrh is also sourced from *Burseraceae* trees, in the same regions of the world as frankincense. The antimicrobial chemicals produced by the trees to protect themselves have properties that can also be used in the embalming of bodies.

Nard, or spikenard comes from much further afield. It is extracted from the roots of a shrub growing at high altitude in the Himalayas. It formed the highly expensive perfume used by the woman, probably Mary Magdalene, who anointed Christ's feet and dried them with her hair, in St John's account.

THE sense of smell is one of the oldest in animal evolution.





*An engraving of the woman at Bethany anointing Jesus with perfumed oil, published in the Holy Bible, St Vojtech Publishing, Trnava, Slovakia, 1937*

And, even if it is not the prime sense for humans, it remains one of great potency. As the Bible writers knew well, smell has a powerful effect on the emotions and incense invokes a sense of the sacred as the smoke carries the prayers of the faithful to God.

fast!). And cars trying to find a space in the car park – all you can hear are horns beeping and drivers shouting at other drivers because they have taken the space they wanted.

Supermarkets ... Well! What can I say? People want to get passed you in the aisles but, for some reason, will not say excuse me. You are pushed out of the way more often than not with the aid of their trolley. When at the checkout with my basket, I hear people behind me sighing because I am so slow.

Crossing the road (at the crossing), I walk at my own pace. Drivers are revving their engines because I'm not quick enough (sometimes I'm a bit naughty and go even slower!).

People complain all the time about having to wait for doctors, nurses and hospital staff are in trouble because someone went in before their turn.

Now, I will tell you how I deal with all of this.

Each month, I go to 'Breathing Space' led by Rev Carole. As soon as I walk through the door into Church, the peace and tranquillity hit me. It feels like God wraps me in His arms and guides me to my seat. From then on, it is so calming. First of all, we listen to beautiful gentle music. Then we have a short Bible reading and Carole offers some thoughts for reflection.

This is followed by 30 minutes of free time (or space) when we do whatever we like in total silence. I choose to talk to God – and He does listen and He helps me to find peace.

Other people like to have a look round the lovely Church. There are a number of different things to do, to see and to engage with. After this, we all come together for a final prayer and a blessing.

I absolutely love it. Please come. Maybe you will be like me and look forward to the second Wednesday of each month. I really hope so.

## Breathing Space

"A time for you  
with God"

2nd Wednesday of each  
month

Next 11 September

8-00pm to 8-45pm in church

### 'Breathing Space'

*an article offered by Heather Kay.*

Breathing Space is something everybody needs in their lives. I am an old lady and find the speed of life today very hard to cope with. Cars go passed me at breakneck speed. (I can remember when 40 mph was



## HOLY HOUR

11am to 12 noon

**EUCCHARIST TO THE BLESSED  
VIRGIN MARY**

12 noon

31 August and 28 September

## Regular worship at St Mary's



### Sunday

8.00am Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer  
8-15am Eucharist

### Wednesday

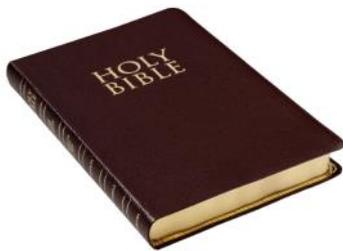
7.30am Morning Prayer  
8-15am Eucharist

### Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer  
9.00am Eucharist in St Mary's  
School  
10.00am Pre-School Praise

### Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer  
8-15am Eucharist



## Readings from the Lectionary for September

8 Sep- Luke 1:46-55

*Patronal Festival*

15 Sept- Luke 15:1-10

22 Sept - Luke 16:1-13

29 Sept- John 1:47-end

*Michael & All Angels*

6 Oct - John 6:23-35

*Harvest*

### Website:

[www.stmarysprestwich.org](http://www.stmarysprestwich.org)

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

### Post:

St Mary the Virgin, Church  
Lane, Prestwich, M25 1AN

**Blessed Virgin Mary  
Colouring Window**

## Contact us



### Assistant Curates:

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### Church Wardens:

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Susie Mapledoram

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## What's on



8 Sept Patronal Festival

10 Sept PCC meeting

11 Sept Breathing Space

12 Sept PreSchool Praise

14/15 Sept Heritage weekend

21/22 Sept Heritage weekend

28 Sept Holy Hour (no Eucharist)

6 Oct Harvest Festival

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 faith-  
ful in prayer and loving  
service.

Help us to play our part in  
building up your Kingdom  
here and now. Amen.



Please support this cause with  
your gifts of tins and toiletries  
located in the Wilton chapel.

