

# *St Mary's Monthly Newsletter*

*Issue 4*



*January 2022*

# *Message from Mary-Beth*

At the end of the year, it's common to cast our thoughts in two directions. We start by looking back at the past year, remembering highlights of the past 12 months, both good and bad. With this in mind, we then focus on the New Year, with our hopes and aspirations.

That's what we've traditionally done each year, as individuals and the Church. And it has a relatively simple exercise.

But 2020 changed everything. The worldwide Covid pandemic turned our lives upside down, as we grappled with lockdown and the fear of a killer infectious disease. For many people, there was very little 'good' to celebrate, although we saw glimpses of goodness and bravery in our NHS, food banks and many acts of goodness within the general population. Our aspiration was for deliverance from the pandemic and a return to normal living.

One year later, we're probably more hopeful than last year, as massive vaccination and new medications seem to have stemmed the tide of Covid as a virulent life destroyer, infecting and killing thousands of Britons. But we can't say we've returned to pre-Covid times, when we lived in complete freedom to see friends and family anytime, without fear of contracting an illness which still threatens our lives and well being.

There is uncertainty about the virulence of the Omicron variant, especially among older age groups. And we're back to mask wearing and heeding advice from the government to be cautious about meeting together as liberally as we did before the pandemic. Case numbers are the highest they've ever been since the pandemic began, although hospital admissions so far are much lower than a year ago.

So how do we view the New Year stretching before us? Are we hopeful, fearful or just too uncertain to know what to think?

Like many Christians, we pray for deliverance, just like we've done for the past year and a half. But our prayers can feel laboured as we struggle to continuously bring our petitions before God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliverance seems a long way and it's hard to live with uncertainty.

It's times like this when we can turn to the Psalms, those verses penned by the faithful of ancient times. Their words are both poetic and wise, as they continue to instruct and inspire us from across the millennia of time.

One of my favourite psalms is Psalm 94.

I am drawn to the words that start at verse 18:

*When I thought “**My foot is slipping,**” your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up  
When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

*O Lord, you have become my stronghold... and the rock of my refuge.*

When bad times come, the psalmist affirms his faith and trust in God. He remembers how God has always stayed by his side, protecting him through His steadfast love.

And when he was anxious at heart, God was there, too, dispelling fear and depression with words of strength and consolation. God was his all powerful and ever present protector, his stronghold and rock against all danger, fear and anxiety.

The Psalmist looked at his past and recognised God as his strong deliverer. This experience enabled him to face the future with hope and trust in the Lord. For the psalmist, God was always by his side, providing whatever was needed to overcome the difficulties of life. God was his strong deliverer but also his loving and compassionate Father, who comforts His people with loving care.

So when we consider the uncertainties of the coming year and are fearful of the pandemic, we can pray like the psalmists to our ever present and loving God, trusting in Him to dispel our fears and anxieties and guide us into the future.

As Christians, we can turn fear into steadfast trust and uncertainty into enduring hope for the future.

May the coming year bring us all closer to God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Mary-Beth

## ***Vacancy Update***

The vacancy process remains on track with endorsements to the draft Parish Profile having now been received from the Patron and Archdeacon. This document will be recommended for adoption at the next PCC (Section 11) meeting scheduled for 13th January 2022. At this meeting Parish representatives to the recruitment panel will be appointed and approval sought to proceed with advertising the vacant position in the Church Times and on the Diocesan website in February.

The Dean of Kings College Cambridge has nominated Canon Wilma Roest, Rector of St Mary Magdalene Parish, Richmond upon Thames to be his representative on the recruitment panel.

# Church Services

Sunday 2nd January	Epiphany Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist <i>(Rev. Rosemary Mason)</i>
Sunday 9th January	1st Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	Parish Eucharist <i>(Rev. Roland Olliff)</i>
	<b>Baptism of Christ</b>	6.00pm	Evensong <i>(Anthony Metcalfe– LLM)</i>
Sunday 16th January	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	Parish Eucharist <i>(Rev. Mary-Beth Hawrish)</i>
Sunday 23rd January	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	Parish Eucharist <i>(Rev. Roland Olliff)</i>
		6.00pm	Evensong <i>(Philip Herbert—LLM)</i>
Sunday 30th January	<b>Candlemas</b> <b>(Presentation of Christ in the Temple)</b>	10.00am	Parish Eucharist <i>(Fr. Gerard Mee)</i>

## Prayer for the Vacancy

God our Father, you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus and called us to be His Body in this place; Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of uncertainty and change , to fill us with vision and energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community. Give your heavenly wisdom to those who are to choose a new incumbent for this parish, that he or she may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, Jesus. **Amen**

# *Jacobean monument to Dame Sara Vincent*

## **A CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE**

***By Stephen Chater***

At the east end of the Norbury Chapel there stands the fine Jacobean monument to Dame Sara Vincent, the first wife of Sir Francis Vincent (who donated to St Mary's the magnificent pulpit). Sir Francis and Dame Sara had five sons and two daughters, all of whom are depicted in colour at a lower level on the monument.



What is less well-known is Dame Sara's connection (through her father Sir Amias Paulet) with Mary, Queen of Scots, who was held as a prisoner in various locations in England between 1568 and 1587, following her abdication and escape from imprisonment in Loch Leven castle. Queen Elizabeth, her chief adviser, William Cecil, Lord Burghley and her spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham were anxious that Mary would be the focus of plots against Queen Elizabeth, which indeed proved to be the case.

Over the years, Burghley and Walsingham accumulated considerable evidence of treason committed by Mary, but Queen Elizabeth was reluctant to set a dangerous precedent by authorising the execution of an anointed queen.

Following the discovery in 1585 of the plot by William Parry to assassinate Queen Elizabeth, Mary was placed under stricter custody, and Sir Amias Paulet was appointed as her gaoler at Chartley Castle. Sir Amias was an experienced diplomat who held strongly Puritan beliefs and who had previously acted as ambassador to France.

Mary was convicted of treason after the Babington Plot in 1586 and was sentenced to death. Queen Elizabeth, however, continued to demur and Burghley and Walsingham explored possible ways in which Mary might be despatched without involving Queen Elizabeth directly.

The result was that Walsingham wrote to Paulet inviting him to arrange the assassination of Mary while in custody. This must have put Paulet in a very difficult position. He would have recognised the danger posed by Mary and that such an invitation would not have been made without at least the tacit agreement of Queen Elizabeth herself. His conscience, however, would not allow him to accept the invitation.

In his response to Walsingham, Paulet refused to "make so great a shipwreck of my conscience, or leave so great a blot to my poor posterity, as shed blood without law or warrant".

It appears that Queen Elizabeth and her advisers respected his decision as he was not punished but remained Mary's gaoler until Queen Elizabeth finally, and very reluctantly signed the death warrant and Mary was executed at Fotheringay Castle on 8 February 1587.

Sir Amias died the following year and in 1589 his daughter Sara married Francis Vincent.



# *High Class Concerts at St Mary's*

*by Sue Prentice*

One of the highlights since the Covid restrictions were eased has been the resumption of concerts at St Mary's. We have long had a tradition for quality music at the church and have been privileged to have hosted some top class musicians. It is rare to find such high quality musicians on our doorstep and to have them play at our monthly lunchtime concerts in our church is very special and should be celebrated.

We are very grateful to Richard Marshall who organizes the concerts and has brought some exceptional musicians this last year and has an exciting programme lined up for 2022.

Our first concert in September was given by Callum Alger, a young Organist who really made our lovely organ sing. Callum is currently studying for a postgraduate professional performance diploma at the Birmingham Conservatoire in addition to being interim Director of Music at St Peter's Church Northampton. He has given numerous solo recitals as well as winning prizes in a number of competitions, appearing on BBC Radio3 and also releasing a CD.





In October we were privileged to host Giacomo Susani who gave a wonderful guitar recital including playing some of his own compositions. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music and now teaches guitar at the Junior Academy. He is a regular soloist and has taken part in many international competitions and is supported in his career by the Julian Bream Trust.

We concluded our concerts this year with a fabulous recital given by the pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School. It is always so humbling to see these talented, young people play such wonderful music and to know that we have such close links with the school, our neighbours is a special thing to foster. We had an excellent turnout for this concert and hope that this will be repeated in 2022.

We have some top notch performers lined up in 2022 and on January 27th kick off our new season with Peter Cigleris and Dina Duisen playing a clarinet and piano recital.

Peter is in demand both as a solo clarinettist and a chamber musician. He has played on BBC Radio 3 multiple times and has performed for various music clubs and festivals around the UK. He graduated from the Birmingham Conservatoire and Royal College of Music and has performed internationally. He has a number of recordings under his belt most recently with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

He will be accompanied by Dina Duisen, again an internationally acclaimed pianist who performs both individually, as a chamber musician and as an accompanist. She currently works at the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music.





On Thursday 24th February our own Oliver Macfarlane will be accompanying Crispian Steele-Perkins who will be performing a trumpet recital. Crispian is a critically acclaimed international trumpeter who has performed over a number of decades with many of the world's leading orchestras. Crispian has done much to promote historically accurate trumpet playing. In addition to this work he has done a wide variety of television and film work, most famously he played the theme tune to the popular television programme Antiques Roadshow.

We are so lucky to have such international stars as Peter, Dina and Crispian playing at St Mary's in 2022. Please do tell your friends and family and help us to publicise the concerts.

As well as enjoyable events the concerts are also a fantastic fund raising activity for the church. There is no need to book and we do not charge for entry, however we are grateful for generous contributions through the retiring collection.



## Lunchtime concerts at St Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon 1-2pm

**2022**

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> January**

*Peter Cigleris & Dina Duisen*

*(Clarinet & Piano recital)*

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> February**

*Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet) and*

*Oliver Macfarlane (organ)*

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> March**

*Jeremiah Stephenson (organ)*

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> April**

*Parkside School*

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> May**

*A Deux Duo (flute and harp)*

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> June**

*Duncan Honeybourne (piano)*

**There is no charge, but please register your intention to join us  
at [admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk)**

**or call 01932 866005.**

**A retiring collection will be taken**

**For more details of future events please contact St Mary's  
Parish Office on 01932 866005 or visit our website**

**[www.stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](http://www.stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk)**

# Outreach

## ***St Mary's Christmas Appeal***

It has been decided that St Mary's Christmas Appeal should be extended through January. This Christmas the proceeds will be split equally between St Mary's and Oasis, a local Cobham charity supporting vulnerable children and their families.

If you would like to donate on-line, then please use the following details:

**Payee - Parochial Church Council of Stoke d'Abernon**

**Account number - 34311211**

**Sort code - 600603**

Alternatively, please give your cheque or cash to Polly in the office.

Your donation can be increased by 25% if you are able to use 'gift aid'. There is no extra cost to you. If you are eligible, and have not already registered for Gift Aid recovery for donations to St Mary's, please email the Treasurer, Claire Saxton, confirming this with the following statement:

*"I wish Gift Aid to be applied to my donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference."*

## ***Reverse Advent Calendar***

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the generous collection on behalf of all clients of the Cobham Area Foodbank. They will have had a wonderful Christmas and be able to put aside some of their worries and the desperate situation in their lives during the Christmas holiday.

There is a special 'Christmas Update' on our website if you are interested to read it follow this link:

<https://cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk/2021/12/02/christmas-update-from-cobham-area-foodbank/>

# Parish Notices

- ◆ If you feel in need of receiving personal spiritual support during the Vacancy please contact Polly or the Churchwardens in the first instance. They will endeavour to resource your needs.

- **We continue to look for volunteers to help with:**
  - ⇒ Making coffee for our Mothers and Others Toddler Group  
Thursday morning (term time only)
  - ⇒ Making and serving coffee after Church on Sundays



We are very grateful to everyone who contributes articles towards St Mary's Monthly Newsletter. If you feel you have something of interest that you would like to share please get in touch with Sara Read at [sread104@gmail.com](mailto:sread104@gmail.com). The closing date for contributions for the February edition is **Wednesday 16th February 2022**.