

# Life News @ St Mary's

St Mary's Eaton Socon Newsletter - April 2023

## Verse for 2023    2 Corinthians 13:11

“Finally, beloved friends, be cheerful! Repair whatever is broken among you, as your hearts are being knit together in perfect unity. Live continually in peace, and God, the source of love and peace, will mingle with you.”

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER - SERVICES AND EVENTS

### PALM SUNDAY

2nd - 9am & 10.30am - Palm Sunday Celebrations

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

6th - 7.30pm - Holy Communion Service

### GOOD FRIDAY

7th - 10am - All Age Service with Hot Cross Buns

7th - 2pm - Reflections at the Cross

### HOLY SATURDAY

8th - 2pm - Easter Eggstravaganza

For the whole family. Games, Crafts,  
Scavenger Hunt, Family Fun etc.

£2 per person - booking essential

### EASTER SUNDAY

9th - 9am and 10.30am - Easter Sunday Celebrations

Email [office@eatonsocon.org](mailto:office@eatonsocon.org) to book Eggstravaganza tickets

## Greetings from the Vicar

In life when we face challenging circumstances and times when all hope appears to have gone, ask yourself, how do I respond? Do I run *into* God's loving arms, or do I try and run away?

When Jesus's disciples and friends witnessed him being arrested, facing a mock trial, scourged and beaten, before being crucified on the cross, they were completely devastated and ran away, as these events were not what they had ever expected.

Of course, we know from where we stand in history, that Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story as three days later he rose from the dead - we also know Jesus' disciples and friends weren't expecting that either!

Throughout his ministry, Jesus had demonstrated that he was Lord over nature, sickness, and the spiritual realm - now in death, He demonstrates that He is Lord over death too. He is Lord of all!

This should encourage us that whatever situation we may face in life, we can trust Jesus with our lives.

**With every blessing  
Tim**

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Please contact us if you  
need help or support:

**07305 210416**

[pastoralcare@eatonsocon.org](mailto:pastoralcare@eatonsocon.org)



**May Day Village Fayre**

**Monday 1st May**

**Refreshments in church**



## **YOUTH CAFÉ**

The Café has started well with small numbers attending from the very first week.

The church youth have been great at welcoming others and they have all enjoyed the milkshakes and toasted sandwiches.

The managers at the local Co-op are providing a small amount of the food required but more is always needed. Any financial donations would be very gratefully received.

A huge Thank you to those who have already donated

and to those who help at the café.



# **Easter Eggstravaganza**

## **Family Event @ St Mary's Eaton Socon**

**Saturday 8th April. 2pm till 4pm.**

- Games - Crafts - Scavenger Hunt -**
- Calm tent- Refreshments - Family fun -**

**£2.50 per person (under 1's free) all inclusive**

Adults must attend with children and require tickets.

To book go to [www.eatonsocon.org/events](http://www.eatonsocon.org/events).

For more information email Liz Faulkner  
(Community, Families and Children's Worker) on  
[cfcw@eatonsocon.org](mailto:cfcw@eatonsocon.org)

### **Youth Update**

I am delighted to report that the youth work at St Mary's is going from strength to strength. Since the launch of the Youth Cafe in February our numbers have increased week on week and we now have more youngsters coming to Fusion on Friday evenings as a result.

March was another busy month with Fusion having a bell ringing lesson, another disco, to which other church youth groups and youth cafes were invited, and a jamming night to encourage more people to join the youth band but also to simply have a good time. We held another cake sale in aid of New Day on Mothering Sunday. During the service our youth played a significant role welcoming, playing in the band, reading the bible reading and serving refreshments as well as taking part in the puppet show! In April we aim to start a discipleship course for our youth to grow their faith through more in depth bible study. We plan to meet one evening a month in someone's home.

We feel God is doing great things at the moment in the area of youth in St Neots. All the churches are working together on this and leading our next generation towards a life with Christ and sharing the good news with others.

Thank you for all your prayers and encouragement.



# GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

## ON THE MARKET SQUARE

A number of people have expressed sadness that there has been no Good Friday 'witness' in the Market Square over the last couple of years. So, this year St Neots Christian Performing Arts (CPA) will be leading a 'Good Friday Reflection' in the Market Square at 12 noon, (a time that hopefully avoids clashing with any of the services going on in our churches).

The event will include singing, dancing, poetry and readings. We would welcome involvement from people who would like to sing or dance on the day. If you would be interested in dancing please contact

[beckychisem@googlemail.com](mailto:beckychisem@googlemail.com).

And if you would like to sing, please go along to the rehearsals at 8pm at Berkley Street Methodist Church, Eynesbury on Mondays March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you are not able to perform, we hope to see you in the audience on the Market Square on Good Friday at 12 noon.

Please contact Becky on the email address above if you have any questions.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



### Wednesday Welcome in April

5th - Easter Tea  
12th - To be advised  
19th - Games and Chat  
26th - Peppercorns



## ACTIOS Update



Firstly, thank you for your continued support and prayer for the work of ACTIOS and our schools worker Jennifer.

The need for ACTIOS in our schools continues to grow, meaning this is a real sign that the time has come to advertise for a second worker to support Jennifer. We would really value your support and prayer to help us provide Gods work in St. Neots.

We are also delighted to announce that the long awaited ACTIOS Quiz will be going ahead on Saturday 22 April.

Love in Christ, The ACTIOS Team.

A vibrant yellow poster with a pattern of small white dots and larger white stars. At the top center is the ACTIOS logo. The main text 'ACTIOS QUIZ NIGHT' is written in large, bold, stylized letters. 'ACTIOS' and 'NIGHT' are in white with a dark blue outline, while 'QUIZ' is in pink with a yellow outline. At the bottom, there is a grey band with white text and a dark blue band with white text.

**actios**  
assisting christian teaching  
in our schools

# ACTIOS QUIZ NIGHT

**6.45 for 7pm • Saturday 22nd April 2023**  
**United Reformed Church (URC) PE19 1BN**

**£6 per person • Teams of 6 • We can add you to a team**  
**Cakes, coffee and tea will be served at the break.**  
**Bring your own drinks, glasses & snacks**  
**Email [info@actios.org](mailto:info@actios.org) or call 01480 395545 or 01480 395546**

## FOODBANK UPDATE

I would like to introduce myself, David Gill SMES Foodbank Trustee. I have replaced Roger Peppiatt, who served two 3-year terms as trustee and still volunteers as parts of the SMES distribution centre. I would like to thank Roger for his hard work as a trustee, not least during the pandemic when he and Frances organised fresh food deliveries from their garage.

The trustees meet four times a year to receive reports from Adrienne Dunn, the Project Manager and Malcolm Crawford, the Treasurer, as well as overseeing the running of the food bank, including the many policies and procedures that must be reviewed, kept up to date and implemented.

One of the main topics currently is warehouse requirement. The current warehouse is too small to store the amount of food coming in and to pack ready for distribution, especially at times like Christmas and summer when additional hampers are supplied to clients. Currently 50% of the office and kitchen are used for storage, as well as a container.

We are having to consider whether to seek a larger warehouse with office space or whether to look to establish an integrated warehouse, distribution and training centre.

Any change has cost implications but to do nothing limits the work the Foodbank can do for St Neots and the surrounding area. There is currently a small working group of trustees looking at the options and costs. Please pray for them and the committee for wisdom and the wise use of resources in the decisions that are made.

There are no paid employees for the Foodbank all the staff are volunteers.

If you have views or would like to know more about the Foodbank or would like to volunteer, please contact me. I am in church at 10.30am most Sundays or email [the.bield@outlook.com](mailto:the.bield@outlook.com)  
David Gill

The Foodbank is currently short of UHT milk,  
UHT juice, tins of soup and tins of meat!





## HELP WITH CRECHE STILL NEEDED

Can you help? Details below and on the resourcing card in church  
Creche held during the 10.30am service

Arrive by 10am (to setup)

Setting up toys, clearing down toys and putting away.

Chatting to parents, encouraging play, helping the leader with crafts/story.

Service will be live streamed into the hall so you'll still be able to see it.

DBS and 'safer recruitment for volunteers process' to be undertaken

Please speak to Liz or email her on [cfcw@eatonsocon.org](mailto:cfcw@eatonsocon.org)



## The Refill Shop

Are you finding it hard to cut down on plastic?

Or to find creation-friendly foods, toiletries and cleaning products?

Why the name? They prefer you to take your own container to be refilled, whether it's peppercorns or rinse aid. And they buy from ethical suppliers, supporting fair-trade where possible.

Near Eynesbury Church, at 40 St. Mary's Street, Eynesbury, PE19 2TA.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 9am - 5pm

More information at [refillshopstneots.com/about](http://refillshopstneots.com/about)



## World Mission Update

Early last month we were blessed by a visit from Allen and Litsa McClymont from OMF, one of our mission partners, during the Sunday services. Allen gave a very informative talk on the work of OMF in Asia and his and Litsa's role in it. They continue to work hard training up the next generation of missionaries, here in London, to go out into the mission field. We thank God for them and their work.

Teresha from Uganda has been in touch and asks for prayers that they can increase home visits to poorly and disabled children and their families and they would like to move closer to where the largest group of the children they help come from. They would also like the impact of God's love to be seen in transforming the communities and churches where they work.

Please do visit our Mission Board to get the latest updates on our mission partners and visit the Missionary section on the church website, which is now up and running!

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL



### MONDAY

Café on the Green - 10am (NOT 3rd and 10th)

3rd and 24th - Creation Care Team - 9.30am

17th - M (Maintenance) Team - 9.30am

Youth Café - 3.30pm (For children in Years 7-11) (NOT 3rd and 10th)

### TUESDAY

Morning Prayer - 9am

Craft Group - 10am

### WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion - 9am

Little Stars - 10am (NOT 5th and 12th)

Wednesday Welcome - 3pm

Bell Ringing Practice - 7.30pm



### THURSDAY

Prayer Meeting - 9am (NOT 13th)

27th - Thursday Lunch Club - 12noon

### FRIDAY

Food bank 10am - 12noon

Fusion 7.30pm (NOT 7th and 14th)

### SATURDAY

8th - Easter Eggstravaganza - 2pm

### SUNDAY

2nd - 3pm - Wildlife Walk - A family friendly walk, leaving from the church, followed by tea and cake at the barge 'Dragonfly'. Please contact Audrey on [aghedges246@gmail.com](mailto:aghedges246@gmail.com) if you hope to come.

23rd - 2pm - HIVE

23rd - 6.15pm - Sharing Life Through Learning

