

ST. MARY'S, BALLINGER: APRIL & MAY NEWSLETTER 2026

With lengthening days and the promise of Spring just around the corner, our thoughts turn with increasing energy to the coming year at St. Mary's and the challenges which lie ahead. March traditionally heralds the start of gardening activity and with that in mind any extra help would be gratefully appreciated. John D has already kindly tackled the grass after the long winter break and Adele M will be on hand to look after the tubs and hanging baskets. However, the shrub border needs tidying and pruning hard back, the outbuildings re-stained, the grass maintained, its edges trimmed and the gate repainted so that our little church will once again snuggle into its surroundings. If you can spare a little time, please contact Maggi or Anne - we will willingly provide refreshments.

Our March service was very well attended with Malcolm celebrating and Tricia leading our prayers. Bernice and Gerard provided the musical accompaniment, followed by coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. The seating was re-arranged though, to accommodate our latest building refurbishment. Namely sorting out the cause of the damp penetrating under the stained glass window on the right side. After some investigation by Jon Suttle our stonemason, it was concluded that the internal wall in the area had been tanked which trapped the water. He has begun to strip off the render to allow the wall to dry out before reworking it with a more suitable lime-based system. We have been given a grant towards this work by Sweet Charity and are about to apply for another one from the Bucks Historic Churches Trust for the ongoing repairs.

St Mary's has come into its own recently, being hired by various groups; ranging from Village Friends who used it for a couple of lectures, Ladies Tangent who were given a talk on the charity M.A.S.T. and finally by some Oxford Brookes students making their final year film. St. M is incredibly flexible and can accommodate many different requirements, so do consider hiring it when next you have a function.

LOOKING AHEAD...

****TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH @ 7.30PM: SAID COMPLINE WITH HYMNS FOR HOLY WEEK****

SUNDAY, 5TH APRIL: EASTER DAY: NO SERVICE at St Mary's.

Instead, please go down to St Peter & St Paul for a whole parish celebration of this special day in the church calendar.

SUNDAY, 3RD MAY: 9.30am Said Eucharist with hymns, followed by refreshments.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Coffee Mornings will resume at St M in April: Friday, 24th April & Thursday, 28th May

10.30am-11.30am

This year we're trialling a different day format so that hopefully everyone can be accommodated.

OTHER NEWS & ONGOING FUND RAISING

-you can't beat a good book, and we have several for sale (£1 each) just inside the church. If you're de-cluttering and have some surplus to requirements do drop them off in the porch. We already have a thriving readership so don't miss out.

-the annual Lee Flower Show in July is creeping steadily upon us and we will be having our St Mary's stall come rain or shine.

-watch this space for news of other fund-raising activities later in the year.

-our set of gardening shears seems to have gone walkabout, so if anyone has a spare pair that we can have we'd be very grateful.

Finally, if you are aware of anyone else who would like to be included in these round robin newsletters, please let either Maggi or I know. With Love and Best Wishes, Anne