

This Month's Mission Focus - Novi Most

Novi Most is grateful for the ongoing generous support of St. Mary's Church. The year 2018 has been very dynamic and we are seeing our vision for Bosnia & Herzegovina being fulfilled.

Your support has enabled us to invest in and equip even more young people this last year. We had more youth serving at our camps and youth conference, than previous years. Providing opportunities for young people to serve allows them to step up in confidence and helps them grow in transferable skills for their futures. Unfortunately the majority of young people in this country still strive for better lives in more developed European countries and beyond. We are facing the challenge of addressing their fears for the future and lack of hope. Through all of our activities we seek to help youth understand that the solution to their worries is inside of them not in the countries they dream about.

Some highlights from this year include a street festival in Jajce, Čapljina taking some teenagers to a camp in England, young people from Mostar attending church events for the first time, and teenagers in Sarajevo leading a kids club and youth conference. Over the last few years, Novi Most has been focussed on creating local resources – we are proud to announce the release of our first CD of original worship songs. The vision of this project was to encourage young people to write songs, make and record music, and they have been involved in this process. Please contact the Novi Most office if you would like a CD – suggested donation £5. Thank you for your investment in the next generation of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Safeguarding

Earlier this week I spent a day updating my Safeguarding Training. It's always a bit harrowing (just how did any church ever become a place where vulnerable children and adults are abused?) And to those of us who are not admin minded, it can seem like overkill and 'the world's gone mad'. In a way, of course, it has.

It goes without saying that we as a church want to make every effort to be completely welcoming, nurturing and caring. Lots of things are required to make this happen, but my one plea is to all those who help with any of our children's work, youth work, or who serve anyone who is vulnerable. Here it is. Please help us by making the admin side of things as easy as possible! Please make every effort to keep your DBS up to date and to work quickly to get documents verified. Please don't yawn or roll your eyes at the invitations to our training sessions in January - these are really important ways for us to express a deep commitment to those we serve and learn together, and every single one of us (me included!) needs to take part. Thank you!

Simon

St Mary's
with St John's Bellingdon



Family News - December 2018

Thank you Beryl!

Last weekend we publicly thanked Beryl Stannard and had the chance to reflect on a lifetime of Christian discipleship and ministry. We will still see plenty of Beryl, but not so much up-front!



Beryl is a faithful, courageous and huge-hearted disciple of Jesus. From the time her faith really came to life as a student, through to her nursing and then work with the Navigators and then as one of the very first ordained women in the Church of England.

She has been for us, here in Chesham, a wonderful example and encouragement. Her authenticity, her candour, her pastoral strength and insight, her gifts as a teacher, her palpable love for Christ shown in prayer, service and self-giving - we have learnt so much from her over her years of public ministry here. I know that many people at St. James', Gerrards Cross also feel the same, having got to know Beryl when she was on the team there.

Thank you Beryl for your reminders last weekend of what a genuine Christian faith looks and smells like - trust, even when that looks daft, generosity to God in giving and in service, the careful attentiveness to God through personal prayer and bible reading. We can all say how important these things are - one of your gifts has been that you have so obviously and faithfully lived this out!

Thank you!

Simon

Family Update



Christmas at St Mary's

Christingle: Sunday 2nd December, 4pm

An opportunity for all the family, especially younger children, to hear the Good News of Jesus the light of the world and make their own Christingle to take home.



Carols by Candlelight: Sunday 16th December, 4pm & 7pm

Once again we have two identical carol services back to back. One of the highlights of the year for many - bring your friends.

Town Carol Service: Wednesday 19th December, 8.00pm

The annual service hosted by Simon and the Mayor, aimed especially at those who work in Chesham, but all are welcome

All Age Fancy Dress Nativity: Christmas Eve, 4pm

Once again we invite you to come dressed as your favourite Nativity character. Lots of fun, with an all age Christmas message.

Midnight Communion: Christmas Eve, 11pm

Traditional service, marking the beginning of Christmas.

Christmas Day

9am Holy Communion (children stay in throughout the service)
11am All Age Worship .



**There will be no 9am & 11am Services on
Sunday 16th December and Christmas Eve.
Sunday 30th December - All Age Holy Communion at 10am**

Bereavement Support Group

Time together over a cup of tea

Wednesday afternoons, 2.15-3.30pm

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January 2018

in the Parish Lounge, St Mary's Church Annexe

The group is open to anyone - please come if you would like the chance to talk and think about bereavement, learning from others and helping to support them.

For more information or to book your place, please phone 783629 or email: rector@cheshamchurch.co.uk



Life Explored

Starts Monday 15th January, 8pm in the
Parish Lounge.

What's the best gift God could give you? Life Explored is designed to help people uncover what they're really looking for, and shows how, in Christ, God meets our deepest desire for happiness. Ideal for inviting non-Christian friends.

For more information contact Simon Cansdale
Tel: 783629 email: rector@cheshamchurch.co.uk

