

## This month's Mission Focus - David, Lucy & Naomi Eastwood, OMF Taiwan

David continues in his role as Field Director for Taiwan. At the moment he is seeing a substantial increase in applications, especially from people who previously served in China. This is a blessing, but is in danger of exceeding the capacity of the mission school (Morrison Academy) to teach the children of all the missionary families. Please pray for wisdom for David as he reviews the applications and considers how new workers training and placement can be best arranged.

Lucy is making good progress in her work towards an MA in social work having spent a large amount of time on placements and also made a start on her thesis. Please pray that she would be able to complete the course well and would be able to make use of what she has learnt to help the people she and David work with.

Naomi has started her second year of university in Exeter. Please give thanks that she has been able to find a job for her year in industry starting in September and was able to spend Christmas in Taiwan with her parents.

*Rob & Rachel Edwards*

## Hilary Wilson remembered

Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them." - *Revelation 14:13*

This Christmas we lost a dear sister in Jesus from our extended Parish church family, and St. John's Ashley Green lost a devoted minister of the gospel. Hilary was known and loved widely across Chesham. Her compassion for the broken, her comfort for the bereaved, her pastoral wisdom and her down-to-earth good humour are already much missed. Her perseverance in ministry now joins the cloud of witnesses surrounding us and urging us heavenwards.



Those who knew her best also knew she was totally assured of her eternal future with Jesus. In remembering her, we remember someone to imitate as she imitated Jesus. We can see in her the kind of life faith in Him makes possible - and the extraordinary fruitfulness of walking daily in love for Him and for others. Please be praying for her husband Rob, daughter Kate and the congregation at St. John's. Even as we rejoice over Hilary, we mourn deeply with them.

Hilary wasn't afraid to die. She knew what it was to walk with others in grief. We remember her, conscious that there remains in the ongoing reality of death an enemy to be finally destroyed. But we also remember that its sting has been removed by the Saviour Hilary served - and that therefore we mourn her not as those without hope of seeing her again.

*Josh Bailey*

# St Mary's

with St John's Bellingdon



## Family News - January 2019

### Thank you & Best Wishes Valerie!

An enormous and heartfelt Thank you to Valerie as she steps down this month from her role running the Church Office and herding my creative energies into a semblance of good sense and relative efficiency. We are going to miss you very much indeed Valerie!



Like many able administrators Valerie is mostly noticed when she's not around bringing order to chaos. I always gulp when she goes away on holiday with the fear that I must somehow keep things vaguely sailing in a straight line in her absence! She has served in a complex and demanding role, juggling many different responsibilities, unflappable even when facing water bombs and being chased around Laserquest!

Valerie has a peaceful, resilient and deeply-held love for Christ and his people. You see it in 100 ways. She is the ideal church administrator - highly gifted, enthusiastic to use those gifts as part of the body of Christ, seeing administration as God sees it - an essential part of our stewardship and service, with a real heart of love for people. Bereaved families, nervous wedding couples, anxious parishioners, would-be Church Rooms users - they all get the red carpet.

In my ten and a half years poor Valerie has had to work in three different offices within the Parish Office with the varying demands of Foodbank and a growing staff team. She has taken each move with considerable grace though my one regret is never managing to fit her desk in the small kitchenette area to enable her to have worked in every single room!

Thanks so much Valerie!

Simon

Valerie writes -

*It has been an enormous joy and privilege to have worked in the Parish Office for Simon (and before him, Roger) and I can honestly say there has never been a dull moment! However, I felt the time has come to retire from full-time work, and move on to a new chapter. I have therefore accepted a part-time (2 days a week) post as PA to Will Stileman, Vicar of St Mary's Maidenhead. Very many thanks to Simon and everyone for your good wishes, and my prayer is that my successor, Lynette Price, will be as happy in the role as I have been.*

## Family Update



## A very big Advent and Christmas, thank you!



Advent! Christmas! Wow! What a season we have just had. December is jam packed with events and celebrations, not least of all those which took place here at St Mary's, or hosted by us elsewhere in our community.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas provide us with such an amazing missional opportunity, as alongside celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, we host our community, welcoming many guests and visitors at our various services and events. As ever all these require a huge amount of prayer, preparation and planning from everyone at St Mary's, and we want to honour that by saying a HUGE thank you to you!

Thank you to each of you who was involved in each and every single way. Thank you to the prayer-ers, the decorators, the singers, the musicians, the AV and PA-ers, the readers, the welcomers, the cleaners, the refreshment-ers, the planners, the drivers, and the behind the scene unsung heroes (you know who you are!). Thank you for sharing your gifts, that we might share the celebration of the gospel with our community.

## Safeguarding

We are so grateful for all those who volunteer to work with vulnerable adults, children and young people in our Parish.

As part of these ministries we have to regularly undertake safeguarding training to ensure we are protecting those who we care for and ourselves. The Church of England has launched new training, which we are rolling out across the Parish.

Hopefully if you are involved in any of these ministries you will have received an invitation to the online training and our January training sessions. If you have not received an invitation via your safeguarding officer or group leader and think you should be at the training please contact Hannah Martin ([trainingchesham@gmail.com](mailto:trainingchesham@gmail.com)).

The January training sessions will be run by a Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and will be very informative and discussion based.

The dates are:

- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January** at St. Mary's Church Rooms 7.30-9.30pm
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January** at Hope Church, Hivings 12-2.30pm (Lunch provided)
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January** at Christ Church, Waterside 7.30-9.30pm
- **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January** at Emmanuel Church 7.30-9.30pm

*There are limited spaces at each session and spaces must be booked in advance.*

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## Holiday Club 2019

Following the success of last year's Holicay Club, we will be running another one this summer from **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019** between 10 – 12.30pm, open to all children in school years reception to year 6. Price for the week is £10 and registration will open in March. The week will end with an all age celebration on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September, followed by a picnic for the whole family.

We will need lots of helpers for a variety of roles - group leaders, group helpers, crèche helpers, AV and Sound, craft, drama, refreshment helpers etc. and also helpers in the lead up to the Holiday Club. We'd love lots of people to get involved including lots of young helpers, from Year 9 and above. Please contact Hannah Martin ([children@cheshamchurch.co.uk](mailto:children@cheshamchurch.co.uk), 784574) for more information or to offer to help.