

4m

Members and Friends of St Mary's Monthly Missive October 2020

Welcome again to *4m*. After a gap since Chris finished her great work as editor we are aiming to publish every other month. Whilst *4m* was started back in 2004 in an interregnum, it has lived through some different times, and now we find ourselves in another 'strange' time.

So hopefully *4m* as well as being informative, can be a vehicle to air issues pertinent to this time.- and it is completely reliant upon your written contributions.

From the Vicar – Trusting, Hoping, Loving

Dear Friends,

And these three remain... 'faith, hope and love.' Most of us will know these words from the bible. They come from Paul's first letter to Corinthians, from a section often read at weddings.

These three things (sometimes known as the three theological virtues) seem to me to summarise everything that I could want to stand for in these days.

We have faith, or in the language I prefer, we trust. We trust in the Lord who holds us, made us, sustains and redeems us.

We also trust that our actions somehow have weight, that what we do is made significant in God's economy. The pandemic has reminded us of this, even if we'd rather forget it.

Shifting to our response to another crisis, Rowan Williams was at a Christian Climate Action protest a couple of weeks ago (the Christian wing associated with Extinction Rebellion), and he was asked, 'Why are you

here? Why should Christians be here?' He answered that it was right for Christians to be there protesting because they are people of faith, which means simply that they believe that what they do can make a difference in the world. To have faith is to trust that my actions count, that what I do somehow matters.

Hope means to believe that the way things are is not the way they have to be. Hope sustains us through these low days. Hope pushes us to imagine new futures that are not just the re-construction of what was before the pandemic. Hope keeps me going.

And love underpins it all. Love seeks to unite people. Love seeks to build people up, to enable each person to flourish, to find life in fullness.

Such things don't sound that 'theological' to me – they just sound basic. The foundations which keep me running in this season. May faith, hope and love, sustain us through to better days.

As ever,
David

For future issues, I suggest that as well as information from the Vicar and PCC, **4m** could include Your contributions on such things as:

Personal testimonies, Prayer points, Revelation and Reflections, Mission links, Home groups, Children, Healing and wholeness, Friends of St Mary's and the building, - but this is not intended as an exhaustive list.

St Mary's PCC



The newly formed Parochial Church Council (PCC) met for the first time on the evening of Tuesday 29th September. As there are more than 6 of us, the meeting had to be 'virtual' on Zoom.

Roles and responsibilities for the PCC were decided.

Here is a list of all members of the PCC:

David Newton – Minister, Chair

Michael Edwards – Warden, Lay Chair

Teresa Taylor – Warden, Secretary

Mrs Dawson – Deputy Warden, Admin

John Crang – Treasurer

Brenda Deboys, Sue Nelms,

David Royce, Charles Correa

The PCC exists to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. To achieve these purposes, as a group we agreed that there should be two Sub-Committees.

The Ministry Sub-Committee to take the lead on the core responsibilities for:

- Enabling the church to play its part in God's mission in the world, and
- Working with David on matters concerning the leadership e.g. planning special services, considering changes etc.

Committee: David, Teresa, Sue, Brenda

The Fabric and Finance Sub-Committee to take the lead on the core responsibilities for:

- Ensuring legal compliance with charity and ecclesiastical law, in areas of safeguarding, finance, employment and appointments.
- Caring for the buildings and churchyard so they may be best suited for the church's ministry and mission.

Committee: David, Michael, Teresa, John, David, Charles

The PCC members are all excited to be serving the church and are looking forward to working together over the coming months.

Teresa

**“Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.”
Psalm 80.7**

Questions and Answers?



One thing I have known for a while is that I have considerable capacity for **not knowing** the answers to questions asked of me, that is, unless they are very simple. To counter that, something I **do know**, is that a deep understanding can come from conversation with others.

So I have suggested to the Editor that we have a space in **4m** where questions can be asked and answers provided by readers. There would be no right or wrong answers, just an honest sharing of experience based on kindness and a generous desire to understand and learn.

The idea is that a question would be asked in one issue of **4m**; I would then collate the answers and in the next issue let you know what people have said. Individuals would not be named.

The first question (well two questions!) I would like to pose to the readers of *4m* are:

1. What have you found most helpful during our time living with Covid 19?

2. What have you learned during this time, that you would like to take into the future?

This will only work if you respond, so please do - I am looking forward to hearing and learning from what you say!

Answers please, and any suggestions for further questions, to the Editor (John Simpson).

Clare Crang



Reflections on a walk.

On a recent 'virtual' Quiet Day, it was suggested we reflect, along the lines of 'The Examen.' This is a helpful way of looking back over the day in the presence of God. I thought through the previous day. We had walked with good friends from Bourn to Hardwick and Caldecote and back.

As a young couple, John and I had the privilege of living in the Lune Valley. We enjoyed the wonders of Morecambe Bay, The Lakes and Yorkshire Dales. We still sometimes struggle with what we consider to be rather bland Cambridgeshire countryside. (Apologies to local Cambridgeshire friends!)

But as I reflected over this walk, I visualised the immense variety of countryside. A few steps into a lush field with cows grazing, rising gently enough to give a view over Bourn church and village. Down into a leafy, shady lane (remember those very hot days?) In the open again among rolling fields, newly ploughed. Warming now, we were grateful for the shade of an old oak generously scattering its acorns in abundance for a crunchy carpet. Through more shady paths, into the cool beauty of Hardwick woods, down alongside autumn hedges with hawthorn berries and blackberry bearing brambles, across more pasture, into the welcome shade of a wooded garden and time to rest in the cool quiet of Caldecote churchyard - more blackberries!

Refreshed, we moved on through orchards of apple and pear, across the middle of a field of young oil seed rape plants. Very hot now and longing for the next bit of hedge-side shade.

I have often, this year, thought of Jonah and his appreciation of God's provision of shade and what he learned from the vine's growth and quick departure!

Back at our friends' house, we sat down in their shady garden and opened our sandwiches.

Three things I have cherished from this:

How nourishing it was taking time to reflect on this previous day's walk.

The simplicity of enjoying one's own sandwiches with friends - minimal preparation and no washing up!

How lockdown has enabled us to be less 'busy' and spend valuable un-rushed time with one another.

(If anyone is interested in our brief notes on this walk, please ask. It takes about 2 hours)

Sue Simpson

Regular events

Services in Person

Sundays at COMBERTON – 9.30 am

Face coverings are required by law (exemptions apply for various reasons and coverings are NOT advised for those under 11).

Zoom Gathering

Sundays at 11.00 am. Join any time from 10.50 am.

Tuesdays at 9.30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday at 8.00 pm Compline

Wild Church

When I was invited to write something about 'wild church', I had to think twice about what it meant. Was it that early meeting back in the church when Amy told us we were not allowed to sing, but along with the recorded hymn, we were invited to clap or dance? Wow! Or was it the church that St Paul felt he had to bring under some correction? No, it is a new initiative to help us connect with God's nature.

Each second Sunday in the month, all ages are invited to join in the churchyard at 3.00 pm to discover A way of engaging with God and one another through the great outdoors. It is aimed at children and families, but very much open to all.

Last time, whilst we moved to different locations around the churchyard with the seeds we had been given, we both listened to scripture, and picked up what we could find on the ground. Later, David provided some dough, and we were encouraged with that to create something with the seeds, and what we had found.

Come along for all-age outdoor, sensory, exploratory worship.

John S

Alternative formats

4m is currently available electronically via the church website, or in print and large print. If you, or someone you know, would prefer to receive it in some other format, such as audio, please let John Simpson or the Vicar know.

Church website: www.stmaryscomberton.org

Editor: comberton4m@gmail.com



FOR SALE

Homemade Jam & Marmalade

Strawberry / Redcurrant / Rhubarb & Ginger /
Greengage

Orange Marmalade & 3 Fruits Marmalade

Please contact Margaret on 01223 262748

All monies in aid of St Mary's Church