



A Warm Welcome awaits at St Mary's Church

Have you thought of joining us on a Sunday morning?

You will always find a warm welcome at St Mary's Church, a friendly smile and an encouraging word, or the speaker's words may have an uncanny knack of helping to untangle a problem that has been troubling you. It is often said that St Mary's Church is a comfortable place to be and what could be better than a chance to worship in a friendly environment.

The Sunday morning service starts at 10.30am and lasts about one hour. There are various people within the congregation who are trained to lead the service and our vicar John Lambert attends usually once per month and this means that we have a good variety of leaders and speakers. All children are welcome and during Sunday services we have a play area set up in the church which includes toys and books.

For those who wish to stay and chat, tea and coffee is served along with homemade cakes which are not to be missed.

A special service called 'Back to Church Sunday' will be held on Sunday 30th September at 10.30am. If you have not been to St Mary's before, or for a long time, then please come along on the 30th. This is a national event which is encouraging people to return to church.

Ride & Stride Steeplechase— on Saturday 8th September the Northumbria Historic Churches Trust (NHCT) is holding an annual fundraising event. The Trust gives money to churches in County Durham and Northumberland for repairs and improvements. St Mary's has undertaken to take part. It works like this:

- Individuals obtain sponsorship for as many people as possible for each church visited between 10am and 4pm. A list of participating churches and forms are available in church.
- Churches are manned to confirm that they have been visited.
- St Mary's sponsorship money is collected and is split equally between NHCT and our church.

Forthcoming Dates

8 th September	10.00am to 4.00pm Ride and Stride Steeplechase
13 th September	12.30pm Community Lunch, Wilson
30 th September	10.30am Back to Church Sunday
11 th October	12.30pm Community Lunch, Wilson
14 th October	10.30am Harvest Festival and lunch in Church
15 th October	2.30pm GodZone, Church
20 th October	2.30pm Sing 'n' Scoff, Church
8 th November	12.30pm Community Lunch, Wilson
11 th November	10.30am Remembrance Sunday
13 th November	2.30pm GodZone, Church

Weekly Events

Tuesday @ 10 – Informal service in Church at 10.00am
 Wednesday - Little Ted in Church at 9.15am
 Thursday - Coffee and chat at Wilson at 10.00am

Take a look at St Mary's Church Website
www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk

'LOVE STOCKTON' LONG NEWTON STYLE
Have you seen that the bus shelters have been painted?

The afternoon of Friday 18th May saw a group of scruffy-looking individuals lurking in the four bus shelters in Long Newton. Closer inspection revealed that they appeared to be cleaning them and sandpapering bits of them.

The next morning a larger group of equally scruffy individuals appeared armed with stepladders, a myriad of brushes and large and small paint containers. When not interrupted by passers-by asking "What on earth are you doing?" and "Are you from the Council?", they were seen to be painting the bus shelters. By the end of the morning most of the job was done.

Those of us scruffs who were involved were encouraged by being able to explain to enquirers that this was one of St Mary's ways of bringing God's love to Long Newton in a practical way via the 'Love Stockton' initiative. A bonus was that a lady living near to the Community Centre was inspired to place flower baskets on the two front pillars of the shelter!



Little Ted

Little Ted meets every Wednesday at 9.15am during school term time at St Mary's Church. Little Ted is an opportunity for your babies and toddlers to play whilst the parents, grandparents and carers get together for a chat. So, if you have young children with you on Wednesdays, do come along and join us. If you know of anyone taking care of young children please let them know about Little Ted. If you would like further details please contact Christine Ayers, Tel 582634.

Bishop's Visitation

On 15th May a service was held at Durham Cathedral for all churchwardens in the diocese. This annual service is the one at which churchwardens officially take up office and make a vow of dedication. I attended with my friend Eddie as we accompanied our husbands, Ian and Maurice, the churchwardens for St Mary's.

The cathedral was full with almost 1,000 in attendance. The service was led by Bishop Justin supported by our three archdeacons, Stuart Bain (Sunderland), Nick Barker (Auckland) and Ian Jagger (Durham).

Bishop Justin began by thanking all churchwardens for their commitment and faithfulness, recognising how the role is getting steadily more demanding. He went on to urge churchwardens to be "rooted in Christ": "to spend time each day reading scripture, and in prayer". He also urged them to be "encouraging the Church to be a place of grace and forgiveness that gathers people into it, not that keeps them out."

It was wonderful to see so many members of parishes from around the diocese there to offer their support to the churchwardens and to hear the Bishop's words of gratitude for the work that churchwardens do.

Dee Palmer-Jones

Upcoming Events

Harvest Festival on 14th October

Before we know it the harvest festival will be upon us. The Harvest service is a great family service which celebrates the natural produce all around us. The congregation bring fresh and tinned food and during the service these are placed around the altar, symbolically giving thanks to God for the things we often take for granted.

This year the gifts (and those from the GodZone service the following day) will be donated to worthy causes such as the Women's Refuge in Stockton. The service will be followed by a shared lunch to which EVERYONE is welcome.

Sing 'n' Scoff on 20th October

'Sing 'n' Scoff' is a fun session held in church with the aim of teaching us new songs which will feature in services. People bring something to eat (sweet or savoury) and we get together to eat and sing.

The next 'Sing n Scoff' will look at songs to be featured in the Advent and Christmas services.

Please come and join us at either or both events.

St Mary's School

We had a very busy time between Easter and the end of the Summer term with a mixture of tests and exciting adventures for the children. In April the Big Ted Team visited the younger children and a great time was had by all. There have been two GodZone services one in May and one in July. These services bring the church and school communities together and are going from strength to strength. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to join us and see what fun we have. Future dates are Monday 15th October, with Harvest as the theme, and Tuesday 13th November.

I would like to thank all in the school and the church who help us to live up to our OFSTED judgement of being a GOOD school and our SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) judgement of an OUTSTANDING school. Long may our success continue.

David Moorfoot
Head teacher



Longnewton Music
The next concert will be held on Saturday 22nd September at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church and will feature 'The Marske Fishermen's Choir' and 'The Middleton Festival Choir'. Tickets £10. Ticket hotline Tel. 585238.