



**ST. MARY'S  
CHURCH**  
LONG NEWTON



**St Mary's  
News** Issue 7  
April 2014

A warm welcome to the 7th issue of St Mary's News, we aim to keep you informed of the events taking place in the Church Community leading up-to Easter. The next issue will be distributed in September giving details of Church events leading up to Harvest, with a further issue being delivered in December.

### Good News Travels Quickly

This week, our daughter Anna gave birth to our third grandchild; a little girl called Bethany Sarah. Anna's husband Iain called us about 11pm on the day to announce the news that she had arrived about an hour earlier. She weighed in at 8lb 8oz and mum was well after a long and difficult labour, thank God.

He told us the following day that, as he phoned round the various members of the wider family, to his surprise he kept getting the engaged tone. Why on earth would so many people be on the phone shortly before midnight? Then the penny dropped! After phoning the first few family members, every single person Iain called knew already before he rang them. Good news travels quickly.

As we approach Easter it is worth remembering that one single event changed a motley band of unpromising losers, via widespread contempt and intense persecution, into what is still today the world's biggest movement.

Christianity, taking on the might of the Roman Empire and soon eclipsing it for cultural significance, owes its unlikely and meteoric rise to one thing only – the resurrection of Christ from the dead. No resurrection, no Christianity. People everywhere began to believe it because they felt its life-changing aftershocks in their own personal experience. Millions all over the world still do.

Good news (which is simply what the word 'gospel' means) travels not only quickly but far and wide too.

With Best Wishes and Prayers, John  
Rev. John Lambert

## Forthcoming Dates and Events in St Mary's Church

all welcome to join in any of these events

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| Monday 14th April to Wednesday 16th April | Daily Worship  |
| Thursday 17th April                       | Agape Meal in church at 7.30pm                       |
| Good Friday 18th April                    | Prayers in church from 9.00am, Led Prayers at 4.00pm |
| Easter Sunday Service 20th April          | Choral Holy Communion Service at 10.30am             |

#### Weekly Events

Tuesday - Tuesday at 10, informal service  
Wednesday - Little Ted in Church at 9.15am  
Thursday - Drop In at Wilson Centre from 10.00am.

Find us on  
Facebook



Why not take a look at St Mary's Church Website for further details of events and contacts  
[www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk](http://www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk)

### Little Ted

This is held in the church every Wednesday morning from 9.15am during term time and all parents/carers are welcome to bring their infants/toddlers along for an opportunity to meet and play in an informal, relaxed atmosphere with no charge .

### Longnewton Music

On Saturday 3rd May Simeon Wood will be performing at St Mary's Church. Tickets cost £10.00 and are available through the ticket hotline 01642-585238. Contact this number with your e-mail address if you want to join the mailing list for future events.

## Date for you diary—St. Mary's Fun Day 20th Sept 2014

It is many years since St Mary's last held a village barbecue so we have decided that this year we should make a big effort to bring something special to the village. So, on Saturday 20th September, from 12.30 to 4.30, St Mary's Church is having a Village Fun Day on Manor Green.

Starting with a fancy dress parade for all the children, there will be a BBQ on the Green and afternoon teas in the Wilson Centre. The marquee will provide the base for our musical entertainment and we are fortunate to have secured the services of Steve Price, a very highly regarded illusionist and children's entertainer.

There will be a bouncy castle for the kids plus games and sideshows for everyone to enjoy along with stalls of local produce. Importantly, there will be "Information Corner" where you can find out about the activities in St Mary's and the many groups and charities we support and who are working hard to make Stockton a better place for everyone to live.

In fact there will be something for everyone to enjoy so make a diary note to join us for a special day in Long Newton, especially as we have now received the exciting news that Bishop Paul, the new Bishop of Durham will be joining us on the day.

We are looking for people who want to have a stall on the day or help with any of the activities. Anyone interested can contact Chris Burnell on 07772-568713. If there are any ideas or suggestions of activities that people would like to be involved with, please contact Steven Firth, Christine Ayers or Chris Brown.

**The Moses Project:** Each month we continue to collect food donations for The Moses Project in Stockton which provides guidance, mentoring and support to young men trying to break their dependence on drugs and alcohol. Donations to this local worthwhile cause can be left in the box at the back of the church on any day.

### Winter Term at St Mary's School

At Christmas the younger children performed "Ralf the Reindeer" and the older ones "Dick Whittington". We had the Nativity service in church and the choir gave their 2<sup>nd</sup> concert, supported by musicians from Egglecliffe school. So far this year we have had a visit of M&M theatre to perform "Cinderella", Y6 have had cycle training, and years 3 and 4 have had pedestrian training. Key stage 1 took part in a sports festival at Egglecliffe school, where Y3 took part in a tennis tournament.

When the better weather comes, we will be celebrating that this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school. If anyone has any memories or photographs of the early years of the school, the school would be very pleased to hear from them.

John Taylor, Chair of Governors



## NEW PATHWAYS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Church, which is a listed building, has for many years sought to be a welcoming place for worshippers, community activities and for visitors. Around twelve years ago the Church building underwent an extensive programme of restoration and re-ordering. Since that time Church life has developed and currently involves activities for groups of all ages e.g. Little Ted, St Mary's School GodZone services twice a term, musical evenings, social events, as well as regular worship, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Over the past few years the quality of the path to the Church porch has vastly deteriorated and pathways leading to the Garden of Remembrance and family graves at the rear of the Church have practically become non-existent. A few years ago the congregation compiled a 'wish list'. Improvement of the pathways came at the top of that list.

The Church Council has had an architect draw up plans to replace current pathways, extend the main pathway to the rear of the Church, and renew and increase the paths serving the Garden of Remembrance. A small car park at the rear of the Church is also planned to allow better access for the infirm.

Stockton Borough Council, and English Heritage have no objection to the scheme and a Faculty [permission] for the work has just been granted by the Diocesan Authority. All details regarding the project including plans are currently on display in Church. The Church building is open every day during daylight hours including weekends.

Members of St Mary's Church are excited by this project. It's completion will finish off the extensive upgrading of the Church facilities that have been carried out since the Millennium and should meet the needs of all those using the Church building and grounds for many years to come.

Of course there is always a cost and based on quotations from contractors this will be in the region of £30,000. It is anticipated that half the amount will be raised via grants. The Church already has £5,000, leaving £10,000 to be raised by its own members and those living in the village.

If you feel that you can make a contribution please use the envelope attached to this newsletter. Any donation you make will be gratefully received. The letter can be posted or delivered by hand to the home of Lewis Ayers, 2 The Green, Long Newton – the Church Treasurer. Cheques should be made payable to St Mary's Church, Long Newton. If you are a tax-payer and would like to Gift Aid your donation please complete the slip inside the envelope. Thanking you in anticipation.