



6th May 2018  
6th Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion

## I am sending you: Vision in the wilderness!

'...when [the tiny mustard seed is] planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.'

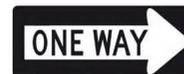
*Mark 4:32*

## Welcome to today's service!

It's been said that *'it's not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but that the God of mission has a church in the world...'* One of the things that has been most encouraging to me over the last few years has been to see the way that more and more people at St Mary's have recognised that the church's very reason for existence is to serve the world and so witness to the God who came to serve and save us. God has given the church to the world, and our calling, as people who make up that church in this town, is to reach out in his name. We have recently looked at the Lord's Prayer, in which Jesus urges us to pray that God's Kingdom comes and this morning we'll be looking together at a parable in which he makes clear that wherever the seeds of the Kingdom are planted in a place, it is with the express purpose that the church grows and offers an ever-increasing place of shelter and refuge in the process.

The Bible frequently reminds us that we live in a world that has lost its way—a world whose wisdom is misguided and ultimately powerless. In contrast, true power to change lives rests in Jesus, and our God-given purpose is to take that truth out into the world in word and action. Every single one of us in the church has a part to play in doing that. Let's pray that God opens our eyes to the specific part that he is sending us out into...

James Kennedy (Vicar)



During our 10.45 service, to serve our families, we run a supervised crèche (for under 3s), Ignite (for 3-5 year olds) OneWay (for children aged 6-11), and Ablaze (for youth aged 11-16). Everyone is welcome!

## Services This Sunday— 6 May 2018

### 6th Sunday of Easter

**St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP)** Leading: Rev James Kennedy  
Preaching: Tim Kuiper. Reading: Acts 10:44– end (Martin Jarratt)

**St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am Holy Communion (CW)** Rev Jackie Jones & Judith Marshall

**St Mary's 10.45am Family Communion (with Creche, Ignite, 'Oneway' & Ablaze)**  
Leading: Sue Coyne Preaching: Rev James Kennedy  
Reading: Mark 4:30-32 & I Corinthians 2:1-5 (Emma/Johann Fourie) Prayers: Nicola Riley

### Praying round the Deanery. This week: St Peter's Wilcote

Please pray for Paul Mansell and Sarah Jones..

## \*\*\*\*\*NOTICES\*\*\*\*\*



### Alpha 7.00pm, Tuesdays, Parish Rooms (Session 2 on 8 May)

Do you ever ask those big questions: Why am I here?; What is the purpose of life?; Where am I heading?; What has Christianity got to offer? Why not come along and join us for Alpha? Alpha offers a wonderful opportunity, following a shared meal, for you to ask them (however awkward or daft you think they might be) in a relaxed, informal setting that makes no demands on the individual. We'd love to see you there. It would also be a great evening to bring a friend along: why don't you simply pray and ask God to prompt you with a name or a face, and then ask him for the courage to invite them along & let God do the rest! For more info, pick up a flyer or e-mail Judith Marshall ([alpha@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:alpha@stmaryscnorton.com))

### **Volunteers needed to help with Catering on Tuesday evenings.**

*Please contact Brenda Davies if you can help with cooking (main meal, Veggie option or cake) or serving and clearing up. 01608 738374 or 07816 191534. See also Sign-up sheet in the church showing dates to be covered.*



### Marriage Course (Starting Monday 4th June)

We'll be running another Marriage Course at St Mary's on Monday evenings in the Summer Term—please see the larger note towards the end of the service sheet for more details (or e-mail [marriagecourse@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:marriagecourse@stmaryscnorton.com))

### Outreach Opportunity: Cycle Safety at St Mary's Primary School

We love the children in our town - and want to keep them safe. You probably did cycling proficiency at school... now it is run by volunteers and at St Mary's they are short of a volunteer to help them run this five week course. Are you free on a Tuesday afternoon 1-3pm and enjoy encouraging children? If so please contact Emma Kennedy 07900 976137 [emma.kennedy@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:emma.kennedy@stmaryscnorton.com)

## Services Next Sunday— 13 May 2018

### 7th Sunday of Easter

**St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP)** Leading: Rev Ursula Simpson  
Reading: Acts 1:15-17,21—end (Barbara Ambrose)

**St James' Chapel Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)**

**St Mary's 10.45am Morning Worship (with Creche, Ignite, 'Oneway' & Ablaze)**

Leading: Rev James Kennedy Preaching: Bill Rees  
Reading: Luke 22:44-49 & Ephesians 1:3-10 (Jo Graves) Prayers: Jamie Bell  
12.45 Church Lunch in the Parish Rooms.

## Contacting St Mary's

### Clergy Team

**Team Rector of Chipping Norton Benefice:**

**Rev Dr James Kennedy**  
☎ [vicar@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:vicar@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 642688  
N.B. James takes his rest day on a Friday

### Curate

**Rev Martha Simpson**  
Currently on Maternity leave.

**Team Vicar of Kingham & Churchill:**

**Rev David Salter**  
☎ [david.salter@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:david.salter@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 658852  
N.B. David takes his rest day on a Friday

**Team Ministers:**

**Rev Ursula Simpson**  
☎ [ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 674541

**Rev Jackie Jones**  
☎ [jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 658616

### Church Wardens

**Graham Povey**  
**Tim Woolcock**  
☎ [churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 641727 (Linda)

### Financial Giving

If you would like to give to support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, may we encourage you to join our planned giving scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer you may be able to add Gift Aid which increases your giving by 25%. Please pick up a leaflet to explore ways to give or you can give online at <https://my.give.net/donations>

### St Mary's is a caring fellowship.

Being a member of a **Small Group** is the best way to make sure you are both cared for, and able to care for others. For more information about joining a group please email [smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com). Otherwise, if you or anyone you know is sad or unwell, in hospital or in need of any other support, please let the Church Office know. We have a team of pastoral visitors who would love to help.

## CHURCH DIARY

### THIS WEEK - 7—12 May 2018

- Sun 6 May** **Pilgrim Paths Guided walk: Milton u Wychwood to Shipton**  
(Depart 2pm from SS Simon & Jude, Milton. Bring your own refreshments)
- Mon 7 May** **BANK HOLIDAY**  
**ODG Ringing Day** (10.30-11.30am in the church)  
**St Mary's Pilates** (6—7pm in Parish Rooms)
- Tue 8 May** **Alpha Course Session 2** (7.00-9.00pm in Parish Rooms)  
Set up 6pm
- Wed 9 May** **St Mary's Minis** (10—11.30am in Parish Rooms)
- Thurs 10 May** **Ascension Day Communion + coffee** (10am in Parish Rooms)
- Fri 11 May** **Remix Youth Club** (3.15—4.45pm at Glyme Hall)
- Sat 12 May** **LHNT Bob Chilcott's Singing Day** (10am—6pm)  
**Chastleton Teas in aid of Christian Aid** (12noon—5pm)

#### Would you like to be confirmed?

On Sunday 17th June, we have Bishop Colin coming to St Mary's to lead a service of confirmation. If any of you, young or old, have been thinking about being confirmed, please do talk to or e-mail James Kennedy.

#### CALENDAR OF FURTHER EVENTS

- Sun 13th to Sat 19th May Christian Aid Week.**
- Mon 14 May** **Come for Tea** (2.30-4pm in Parish Rooms)
- Thurs 17 May** **Chastleton Teas in aid of Christian Aid.** (during afternoon)
- Sat 19 May** **Boy's Hike** (Dep 9am from CN School coach park. Ends at 10.30)  
**Boy's Breakfast** in Parish Rooms.  
**'Thy Kingdom Come' 24 hour Prayer starts** (12noon in Parish Rooms until Sun 20 May 12noon)
- Sat 2 June** **St Mary's Fete (Friends event)** (12noon—4pm in Old Vicarage Garden) Set up in morning & on Fri evening)  
**Alan Shaw's Classical Guitar Concert** 7pm in the Church.
- Mon 4 June** **Marriage Course begins** (7.45pm in the Parish Rooms)
- Sat 16 June** **CN Choral Society's Community Singing Day Performance**  
**Vivaldi's Gloria & Chilcott's The Voyage.** (5.30pm at St Mary's)
- Sun 17 June** **Welcome Tea** (3—4.30pm in Vicarage Garden)  
**Confirmation Service** (6pm in the church).
- Sun 24 June** **Men's Curry Night** (8 pm in Spice of India, CN)
- Sat 7 July** **Caerphilly Mens' Voice Choir concert** (7.30pm in the church)  
*Friends event.*

*For further information, please contact the Church Office*



**The Marriage Course** is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a stronger marriage.

#### Who is it for?

It is designed for couples who are married or cohabiting and seeking to strengthen their relationship and offers practical ideas and the tools to help you keep your relationship strong - whether you need urgent help, or just wanting to

build something better. May be you want to spend time investing in your marriage or you have a friend or relative who is struggling in their relationship - this might be a way of reaching out and offering them practical support.

#### What can you expect?

At The Marriage Course you are seating at your own table for two, served a delicious meal before a practical talk and time for private discussion between you and your partner. Background music ensures that you can chat in complete privacy and you never have to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner. The Marriage Course is based on Christian principles, but everyone is welcome and the course is designed for all couples with or without a Christian faith or church background.

When?

**Monday Evening 7.45-9.45pm** in The Parish Rooms, starting on **Monday 4th June, 2018** for 7 weeks

If you would like to book on or have more details please email: [marriagecourse@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:marriagecourse@stmaryscnorton.com)

#### **Christian Aid Week: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

Would anyone be prepared to collect in Church Street? This is a road where many people will be used to the collection and it would be a shame to lose their support. We are selling teas in the church at Chastleton to visitors to Chastleton House (NT). Would anyone like to help on the afternoons of 12<sup>th</sup> May (Sat) and/or 17<sup>th</sup> May (Thursday)?

Could you provide a cake that could be cut into large slices?

Contact Fiona Rossington on 01608 643344 or [lfrossington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lfrossington@hotmail.co.uk) (NB: the first letter is a lower case L)

#### **Church Lunch in Parish Rooms (Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 12.45pm**

All are welcome to join us at our 'Bring and Share' lunch and to invite friends and family—children welcome! Please inform Jen Williams if bringing guests. 01608 686366 / [jenwilliams366@gmail.com](mailto:jenwilliams366@gmail.com)

**Come for Tea** is open to all and is held every second Monday in the month in the Parish Centre - The next one is Monday 14th May. For information contact Amanda Gafford, on 641284. Come and join us!