

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: March

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 842761 Afterhours

**Peoples Warden:** Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

**Vicars Warden:** Roger Jennings 07 8243712



## SERVICES FOR MARCH

### Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>:

10am Family Communion with  
Children's Church/Junior Youth

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton

### Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Brenda Stobie

### Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>:

10am St Patrick's service.  
Children's Church/Junior Youth  
making palm crosses

Refreshments - Kim Simpson

### Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>:

10am Harvest Service.

Refreshments - Karen Boyer

### Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>:

10am Palm Sunday. Kids donkey rides!

Refreshments - Gail Hendricks



## Parish Office Hours

The Vicar is available at the church each Friday, 9am to 2.30pm in vestry/office. Please feel free to drop in! The church is also open for prayer and quiet reflection.

### Some important Dates:

**Sun 15 March:** *St Patrick's service*, and we have the Campbell brothers coming to sing and play for us! Wear something **green**

**Sun 22 March:** *Harvest Service* Bring an item of nonperishable food along for the Foodbank.

**Sun 22 March:** AGM immediately after the Harvest Festival service

**Sun 29 March:** *Palm Sunday*. Bring along palm fronds to decorate the church. A 4 legged special guest arriving.☺

### Parish Bank Account:

**02 0410 0103053 00** Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

### A Prayer for this month:

Loving God,  
you call us back to you with all of our hearts.  
I feel your call for me deep in my heart  
and I know you want me back  
as much as I want to return.  
Please, Lord,  
give me the wisdom to know how to return.  
Make my journey back to you this Lent  
one of grace, forgiveness and gentle love.

## My fears over intimidation of Christians, by HRH The Prince of Wales

*The Prince's comments have been extracted from an exclusive interview he gave to BBC Radio 2's The Sunday Hour:*

There is a real worry that there could come a time when there are no Christians left in the Middle East because the numbers have gone so dramatically down.

With what has happened in Mosul in Iraq and other centres, there are very few Christians left because they were intimidated to a degree you can't believe.

Everything has been taken from them. Many of them are so fearful now of ever going back.

It is a most agonising situation, but we must remember that all around the world there is appalling persecution going on, not only of Christians but of Muslims and of other faiths and religions.

The radicalisation of people in Britain is a great worry, and the extent to which this is happening is alarming, particularly in a country like ours where we hold values dear.

You would think that the people who have come here, or are born here, and who go to school here, would abide by those values and outlooks.

But the frightening part is that people can be so radicalised, either through direct contact with somebody, or through the internet. There is an extraordinary amount of crazy stuff on the internet and clearly some people get particularly affected by it and join with others.

I can see some of this radicalisation is a search for adventure and excitement at a particular age.

So what I have been trying to do with the Prince's Trust and other groups is to find alternatives for adolescents and people at a young age – constructive paths to channel their enthusiasm, their energy, their sense of wanting to take risks.

I started something in 2007 called 'Mosaic', which was designed to try to help young people in Muslim areas, particular in deprived areas in the UK, with mentoring to help build self-esteem and self-confidence.

I have been asking them recently to do more towards de-radicalisation, and there are some really interesting examples of how people can be de-radicalised once they become radicalised because they find they are horrified by what it leads to...

Of course, how you prevent radicalisation in the first place is the great challenge. You cannot just sweep it under the carpet.

Inevitably, I find it heart-breaking that these sort of things should happen, particularly when I know that there has never been more activity going on with interfaith dialogue and endless efforts made to bring everyone together.

And the tragedy is even greater because Christians have been in the Middle East for 2,000 years, before Islam came in the 8th Century.

But I think the secret is we have to work harder to build bridges, and we have to remember that Our Lord taught us to love our neighbour.

When I called myself Defender of Faith all those years ago I was trying to describe the inclusion of other people's faiths and their freedom to worship in this country. At the same time as being Defender of the Faith, you can also be protector of other faiths.

From that point of view, it was very interesting that 20 years or more after I mentioned this frequently misinterpreted phrase, the Queen, in her address to faith leaders around the time of the Jubilee, said that as far as the role of the Church of England was concerned, it is not to defend Anglicanism to the exclusion of other religions but to protect the free practice of all faiths in this country. She was conveying what I was trying to say.



Symbol for Nazarene (Christian) which Isis marked on Christian's doors

## A Lenten Scripture for you:

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing-- grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. [Joel 2:12-14](#)

## Building Fund Update:

So far we have approx. \$10,000 in the Building Fund. Vestry have appointed Richard and Sally-Ann Riddell as heading the Building Committee

## This Month in Christian History:

1799: Johannes Theodorus Vanderkamp, missionary to South Africa, arrives in Capetown. He will redeem many slaves with his own money and break down European settlers' resistance to mission work. Following the death of his wife, he will marry a black woman by whom he will have four children, leading to outrage among the Europeans.

