



St Mary the Virgin

Boston Spa



**In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5**

Church Magazine
No 1820~January 2024

Price 60p

St Mary the Virgin in the Parish of Lower Wharfe

Parish Office for St Mary's and the Parish of Lower Wharfe:

St Mary's Church, High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6DR

Telephone: 01937 844402

Benefice Administrator: Emma Hunter

e-mail: bramhambenefice@outlook.com

website: <http://www.bramhambenefice.org>

Monday Parish Office 9.30-12.30pm for visitors and telephone enquiries

Tuesday-Thursday: Contact by telephone or email

Friday – Closed

Priest in Charge: The Reverend Nick Morgan

revnjmorgan@gmail.com

St Mary's Vicarage, 1 St Mary's Vale, Boston Spa. LS23 6FW

Priest in Charge	Rev Nick Morgan.....	01937 538840
.....	07387 728009
Assistant Priest &	Rev Trish Anslow	01937 844789
Pastoral Care Coordinator		
Associate Priest	Rev Glenda Webb.....	07871 241933
Connections Minister	Jo Davies	07891 824126
Churchwarden	Andrew Smith.....	07743 031990
Churchwarden.....	Niki Hampson.....	07850 635499
Vergers	Sheila Harper	01937 843393
.....	Peter Wood	01937 842708
VCC Secretary	Robert Wivell	01937 843727
Treasurer	Peter Wood	01937 842708
Stewardship Secretary	Peter Wood	01937 842708
Organist & Director of Music	Steve Aston	01904 625714
Assistant Organist	Peter Sharp.....	07508 219132
Electoral Roll Officer	Roland Gooch	01937 581488
All Together Worship	Penny Stables.....	01937 841240
Eucharistic Ministry	Peter Wood	01937 842708
Sacristan.....	Sheila Harper.....	01937 843393
Mothers' Union	Ruth Boswell.....	01937 845578
Safeguarding Rep.	Emma Hunter.....	01937 844402
St. Mary's School:		
- Headteacher	Su Lord-Cloke	01937 844395
- Chair of Governors.....	Colin Speers	01937 844395

Services at St Mary's

For full details of our Sunday and Weekday Services and current announcements please refer to the latest Newsletter, available at the back of Church.

This information is also regularly updated on our website.

Our usual pattern of Services is:

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays
Holy Communion **10.00am**

Sundays
Holy Communion **8.00am (Book of Common Prayer)**

Holy Communion **10.00am (Modern, Order One)**

Compline **6.00pm**

1st Sunday each month

10.00am Parish Worship
Family friendly service for all ages.
Generally no Holy Communion, except on major festivals.

Baptisms. Baptism Preparation Meetings are evening meetings held in St Mary's Room. Please enquire through the Office for current details.

Home Communion. Arrangements can be made through the Office. The Blessed Sacrament is permanently reserved in St Mary's for the sick and dying. Our Clergy are grateful to receive the names of those who are sick or those needing a special visit. They are also readily available after any service, or by appointment, for counsel and advice.

Marriage or other matters. Please contact the Office in the first instance. The Vicar is available at an Open Session on most Saturdays from 10.45am to 11.30am in the Office which is accessed through St. Mary's Room.

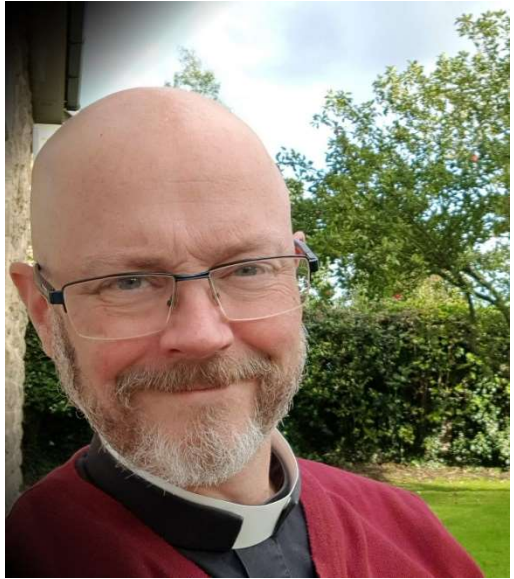
St Mary's Room

For just £12.50 per hour St Mary's Room can be hired for meetings, etc. Please contact our Administrator for further details.

Clergy Letter January

It is five years since my family and I arrived in these parishes as I took up my role in the Bramham Benefice. So, what have been the highlights, would you think?

Being there for people at critical points of life is a particular privilege of ministry. Holding the hands of the bereaved and the dying and being able to proclaim the



Christian message of love and hope remains a very special honour. Another has been my time with couples as they prepare for marriage, getting to know them and talking the service through with them so their wedding service is not only a special day for them, but is one where God's blessing on their marriage and role in their life together is clear. This was especially poignant during 2020-2021 when there was so much disruption to couples' wedding plans (indeed, the last of my postponed 2020 weddings took place in September 2023!).

Learning more about what God is up to in these parishes and doing my best to get on board with it has been a wonderful learning curve. Listening to different perspectives on village life; sharing in the worship of initially four, and since February 2023, five churches (as well as with ecumenical friends on occasion); spending time in wonderful primary schools in the benefice; seeing faith in action in the work of the clergy team, and our Home Communion and bereavement team; discussions within the church about how better to serve our communities and spread the Good News of Jesus, all of these have been highlights of life here to date.

At the heart of the Christian Faith is Community. You can believe that

your vocation as a follower of Jesus is to love God, love other people and spread the Good News of Jesus as much as you like, but faith doesn't come alive unless you act on it. We all act as members of communities, and in the case of Christians, that community includes God. Indeed, the Christian Faith is centred around this idea of a loving community, modelled on the very nature of God. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are one God, but three distinct persons. Father, Son and Holy Spirit depend on each other in a way which Jesus told his followers to mimic. To build a human community which fulfils its potential as a place of love, peace, justice, compassion, generosity, truth and mercy is no easy matter. But we start, quite simply, by opening our hearts to God and responding to God's love for us; by loving one another as Christ has loved us; and by praying that the Holy Spirit will transform us, making us more like Jesus, and giving us the gifts we need to get the job done.

"This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us." (1 John 4:10-12 [Good News Bible])

Thank you to everyone who has made me and my wife Kate feel welcome over the past five years. My prayer for our communities continues to be that they will be places where God's perfect love thrives, and everyone flourishes.

May it be so. Amen.

Reverend Nick Morgan

Christingle



The
Children's
Society

On the 3rd December we held our All Together Christingle service as we gathered on a wintertime Sunday with crisp snow on the ground.

First of all the congregation gathered in the North Aisle to make the Christingles while a video played and the music group strummed along.

Penny's welcome and prayers were followed by us singing walk in the light. Our gospel reading about watching and waiting for the

light was followed by a reflection then our prayer activity. We all lit tea lights and said our own prayers for those we know this advent season who are in dark places. We had further songs; Christ be our Light and Open our Eyes Lord. There were prayers and a collection for the Childrens Society.

Finally, everyone stood in a circle in the church sanctuary and we all lit our Christingles and sang together This little light of mine. It was a lovely reflective Christingle service followed by much coffee cake chat and Marcus and Paul leading in a final song Show me the way to shine for Jesus





Thank you to everyone who came for the service and for your generous donations to the work of the Children's Society which amounted to £144,60.

This was then combined with the collection from St Mary's School Carol Service of £113.63 to make a great total to donate.

Alison Talboys

Christmas Carol Service



The Benefice Carol Service was held at St Mary's on Sunday 17th December at 4pm. It was so lovely to welcome many new members to our choir for this special service – we were nearly 40 in number this year, and it sounded lovely! The church was packed with people who came to watch and join in with the carols too.

After the service we enjoyed refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies. A big thank you to Steve, our Director of Music, Peter our organist, and everyone in the choir. We hope that some of the new members might continue singing with the choir in future.

Church Music News

York Minster is host the first-ever Church Times Festival of Faith and Music in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) in April 2024.



The Festival brings together a stimulating programme of music and worship, talks and workshops over a weekend celebrating church music in all its glory – hoping to send delegates home encouraged, inspired and equipped with new, and practical ideas.

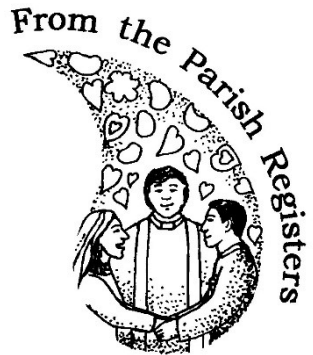
From the 26th to the 28th April 2024, an exciting and engaging range of speakers, discussions, and workshops will include a keynote speech by the Archbishop of York and dedicated services held in York Minster. A choice of workshops will run on subjects as diverse as taking your church choir into the community, using music to support your church's engagement with dementia, caring for a pipe organ, choosing hymns, and growing the church younger through music. Top-flight professional singers James Gilchrist and Andrea Haines will contribute, both of whom began their singing lives in parish church choirs. More information here: <https://yorkminster.org/>

Occasional Offices

Baptism

17.09.23 Axel Williamson

24.09.23 Albie Colbeck



Wedding

2.9.23 Victoria Brown and Jack Wray

9.9.23 Thomas Bowie and Jessica Morrison

Funeral

5.9.23 Joan Patchett

12.9.23 Arthur Utley

20.9.23 Helen Bald

Parish Giving Scheme

December has been a seminal month for the Parish Giving Scheme, both nationally and in the Diocese of York.

It was announced that, from 1 January 2024, the Church of England is making the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) freely available to all parishes.

This is made possible by integrating PGS more closely into the National Church. PGS will continue to operate as a charity with its own board of trustees. The main difference is that, from January, its funding will be from the Archbishops' Council via a grant from the Church Commissioners, rather than funding from individual dioceses.

Generous Giving Officer Phil McBride welcomed the news whilst also reinforcing the benefits of signing up: "PGS has always been free for regular givers as the cost in the past has been covered by the Diocese of York. There will be no change to regular givers but a reduced cost to the Diocese."

Phil was also keen to mention a significant milestone for the scheme in the Diocese this month. "During the month of December, the total donations processed and paid to churches in the Diocese of York during 2023 passed the £1m mark. This is a phenomenal achievement and the 100+ churches who have signed up have done a great job promoting the benefits to their congregations.

"That nearly 47% of givers in the Diocese of York are committed to adjusting their giving annually by an inflationary amount is fantastic, and gives treasurers confidence that the gifts they receive will be future-proofed to help with, for example, the rising cost of energy."

If you would like to know more about PGS please ask one of our churchwardens or Peter Wood.

New Year Resolutions

Last year (2023) 30 million people in the UK made New Year resolutions, with health (28%), money (27%), family (24%) and self-improvement (21%) topping the charts for the most common resolutions. However, surveys suggest that most people lasted seven weeks before giving them up and 21% only lasted for a month before giving up.

What resolutions can we make that will last beyond January? At the start of a new year, let's remember Paul's words: *'I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings'* (Philippians 3:10). Like Paul, our resolution should be to know Christ deeper in this coming year.

'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Phil 3:13,14). Paul sees following Christ like an athlete running a race in the stadium. As any good runner, we mustn't look back. We cannot live on past successes, get bogged down by past sins and failures, or be bitter over past wrongs we've done, or had done to us!

An athlete strains every muscle to win the race. Like Paul, let's be single-minded in making Jesus our focus during the coming year in everything we do. What practical steps are needed if we are to go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading? How can we more effectively see Christ working in our workplace and career, or family and children?

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell says: *'I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.'* In this New Year, let's find our pleasure in the pursuit of knowing Christ better!

Responding to the Israel – Gaza War

The crisis in Israel and Gaza continues. So we are offering you a list of Christian UK agencies who are working in either Israel or Gaza, and who have launched Appeals for help. Please respond with compassion to the many people in need.

We have listed the agencies in strict alphabetical order.

Bible Society

Urgent appeal for the Bible Lands

Our Bible Society teams are serving in *both* the Israeli and Palestinian communities. They are distributing everything from Bibles to food to blankets to hygiene items, but they need your support. If you would like to help, please go to biblesociety.org.uk

Christian Aid

Urgent appeal for the people of Gaza

In Gaza, our medical partner is providing mobile medical and psychological care. In southern Gaza, our partner is responding to the recently displaced, providing them with mattresses, medicines, and emergency food items. Your donations can make a huge difference. Please go to: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk>

Embrace the Middle East

Help the people of Gaza

If you can help support Embrace's Christian partners as they work to help people caught up in this crisis, please go to: <https://embraceme.org/gazacrisis> .

World Vision

Middle East Emergency Appeal

We're already working in the West Bank, supporting the thousands of vulnerable children, families and communities impacted by this crisis. Your donation will be channelled into the areas of greatest need that World Vision and its partners can access.

Please go to: <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/emergencies/middle-east-appeal/#donate>

*Saint of the Month: 19th
January
Wulfstan, Bishop of
Worcester 1095*

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095, occupies a unique place in British church history.

He was the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. On top of that, he seems to have been a truly good and holy man.



Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was made bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church. He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his

diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his archdeacons.

He was highly influential in monastic reform, overseeing laws and canons to reform the role of the clergy.

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land.

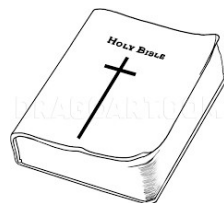
He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland.

He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners.

Would you like to understand the Bible better?

We are offering an 8 week course, which will be DVD led with discussions within the group at St Mary's Church beginning on **Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm**



If you are interested in finding out more or coming along, please contact the Parish Office on 01937 844402

There will be a small fee of £5 to cover the cost of the course booklet.

Having a religious faith makes you happier

People who have a religious faith are generally happier and more resilient than atheists and other non-religious people.

That is the finding of a new study, *Keep the Faith: Mental health in the UK*, which has been recently published by the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL). The think tank was set up to study the part that religious faith plays in the UK. It was the first to focus exclusively on the link between people's faith and their mental health in the UK.

The survey included Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, with nearly 70 per cent of them reporting a good psychological well-being, as compared with only 49 per cent of atheists.

As for happiness, just nine per cent of people with a faith said they were unhappy, as compared with nearly a quarter of atheists. It was also found that believers feel they have more self-control, more life satisfaction, and more optimism about their future. Only nine percent of believers were pessimistic, as opposed to 30 percent of non-believers.

But it seems that practising your faith is important. Even among believers, those who regularly attend religious services are far more likely to report positive psychological wellbeing, when compared to those who rarely or never attend such services.

Overall, the IILF has concluded that the rapid secularisation of the UK has left many people with lowered resilience and lowered wellbeing.

As the author of the study, Dr Rakib Ehsan, says: "while the fast-paced secularisation of the British has been cited as a form of social progress, this appears not to be the case from the perspective of mental health."

Dear Reader - please feel free to write in to explain what effect having faith in God has on your personal life.

St Mary's Church Services & Duties

January 2024



7th January (Christmas 2)

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's
10am Parish Worship at St Mary's
Sidespeople: Mike and Joy Bowers
Coffee: Dahlgreen family

14th January (Epiphany)

8am Holy Communion at Thorp Arch
10am Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sidespeople: Bob Umbers, David Coates
Reader: David Coates
Intercessor: Martin Winbolt-Lewis
Coffee: Sandra Clark and Gill Cooper

21st January (Epiphany 2)

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's
10am Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sidespeople: Robert and Anne Wivell
Reader: Gill Cottam
Intercessor: Bill Weaver
Coffee: Talboys Family

28th January (Epiphany 3)

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's
10am Holy Communion at St Mary's .
Sidespeople: Penny Stables, Paul Hampson
Reader: Marcus Orton
Intercessor: Barbara Neale
Coffee: Winbolt-Lewis Family



January Diary

Wednesday 3rd 2.00pm “Catch Up” a general chat

Thursday 11th 1.30- 3pm St Mary’s Ark

Wednesday 17th 10.00am Corporate Communion
Followed by coffee

Thursday 25th 1.30 – 3pm St Mary’s Ark

Future Dates

7th February Wednesday 2pm

A talk by Niki Hampson - ‘Seeing God Through Nature’

6th March Wednesday 12.30-1.00pm

AGM and Lunch held in St Mary’s Room

Guests and New Members always welcome

Su Wilkinson, Branch Secretary

Christmas Wreath Making



Our last meeting of MU@Toms was on Tuesday 5th December when a group of MU members gathered for Christmas Wreath Making in St Mary's Room. It was a lovely evening and Emma Hatherley kindly sourced the materials and organised the evening.

Look out for our new programme for 2024 coming soon.

The Ark



Come and join us

St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa

warmly invite you to join us for play, stories, songs,
crafts and fun!

1.30pm—3.00pm

This Month's Ark: 11th and 25th January

From the Archives

John Townend was taking a look around some of the churches in our benefice

MORE BROWSING ROUND OLD CHURCHES

All Saints, Bramham. Norman work again! The tower shows this, up to the battlements and spire which were added in the C. 14. So were the battlements along the nave roof.

Inside the church notice the spacious impression given by the very high arches of the transitional Norman period. This dates from the late C. 12, the time the pointed arch was just gaining favour—note the pointed arches of the windows on the S. side of the chancel. The chancel arch, with its Rood are C. 19 alterations as are the S. chapel (where the Sacrament is reserved) and the present E. window. The woodwork in the chancel is of interest, the panelling on both N. and S. sides being done by the local firm of Bromett & Thorman of Tadcaster in 1906. They also made the screen between the S. chapel and chancel in 1911. The vicar's pew and the pulpit also appear to be constructed from some older furnishings. The church plate dates from 1629—chalice and paten, and another set, 1718-19.

Bramham was the mother church of Boston Spa, until we were elevated to the status of a full parish from a Chapel of Ease in 1856.

St. Andrew, Newton Kyme. Don't be deterred from visiting St. Andrew's by the cattle and having to cross the parkland in front of the Hall.

The church has been much altered in its long history. The village is mentioned in Domesday, and a Norman foundation for the Church can be assumed. Note the tiny Norman window, now blocked, in the exterior wall of the chancel over the priest's door.

The main building that remains is C. 13 (1220-90). The east window is 1330-50, reticulated tracery, as at Walton, but not so grand and impressive. The chapel on the N. side of the chancel has its own exterior door, and exclusive 'squint' to see the altar. This rough hewn peep hole was unblocked in the restoration of 1894.

The slender tower is C. 14—note the grotesque gargoyles in the corner.

The carvings in the porch are interesting, and include the Cross of the Patron Saint. The date of the carvings is uncertain, and may be as late as the C. 18. There are two scratched 'Mass Clocks' on the Jambs of the priest's doorway on the S. side which may well date back to the C. 13.

The list of rectors dates back to 1290 though earlier mention is found of "Richer, parson of Newton Kyme" in a document of 1266. The present communion vessels date from 1704, earlier items having disappeared over the ages.

New Year

A carillon, then twelve long chimes
We join in noisy 'Auld Lang Synes'
To celebrate the changing times -
And times of hope, not fear!
Even while the chimes still ring
And while we gaily laugh and sing
We pray the coming years will bring
Good reasons for good cheer!

All the sadness of last year -
Every sorrow, every tear
Let them fade and disappear;
Yes - let them fade away!
Hearken to the chiming bells!
See the fireworks ' sparkling spells!
The sights and sounds and tastes and smells
Of ev'ry New Year's Day!

By Nigel Beeton

***We wish all of our readers a
Happy and Healthy 2024***

Community News

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for your ongoing generous donations towards our local foodbank which is part of the Trussell Trust.

Please drop your donations off at:

- Bramham Church porch 10am – 4pm, 7 days a week
- St Mary's Boston Spa 9am - 3pm, 7 days a week and Wed 2-4pm.

WiSE Cafe

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3 pm, for Breakfast/Tea/Coffee, & Lunch



The WiSE Owl Cafe in Boston Spa is a friendly local meeting place - come and visit and try our new additions to the menu as well as our hot weekly special.

Jazz in the Spa – January

6th – Savannah Jazz Band – and here's the traditional start to the New Year with Yorkshire's premier jazz band in revitalised form with Richard Church on trumpet, Roger Bird on reeds and Graham Smith on drums. Traditional Jazz at its best with a tinge of New Orleans and more than a dash of Rhythm & Blues - guaranteed to appeal to everyone.

Nostalgia at the Village Hall

Ken Waller's singalong - singing songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s in a relaxed and easy style.

Meetings held on first Friday of each month

The Jubilee Room at Boston Spa Village Hall from 1.30-3.30pm
£3 includes refreshments

Dates can be found on the Village Hall Website bookings page.
Proceeds towards Village Hall improvements, for more information call
Brenda 07774 125821

Boston Spa Gardening Society

**Meetings held on last Wednesday of
the month September - May at
Deepdale Community Centre
Doors open 7pm
Raffle and refreshments!**



Wednesday 31st January 2024

Vietnamese Gardens - Richard Hutchinson NGS Speaker

Get away from the cold and dark with a tour of the Far East. Visit some spectacular gardens including those at Mao Tse Tung Memorial Park, Perfume River Hotel and Dai Noi Palace.

Atkinson Grimshaw at the Linton Antique Society



His mother tried everything she could to deter John Atkinson Grimshaw from pursuing his ambition of becoming an artist – even burning his paints and brushes – but he persisted and became one of the most recognisable of late Victorian painters. Famed for his masterly depictions of moonlight and atmospheric autumn dusk, Grimshaw also painted scenes that give an insight into his life. Art historian Tim Stimson traces the career of the Leeds-born painter in a Zoom presentation at 8.00pm on Thursday 11 January 2024.

Non-members can attend this Zoom meeting for a fee of £10. To book, email info@lintonantiquesociety.org with your details.

You can become a Society member for £25, individual, and £45, joint, which gives access to all the presentations in the season. You can join through the Society's website www.lintonantiquesociety.org.uk, by contacting the Membership Secretary on 0113 345 1815 or at any meeting. Non-members can attend: the entrance fee is £10, which counts towards the membership fee if you join on the same night.

New Year Prayer 2024

Lord,
We stand on the threshold of a new year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months.

As we step into this new year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us. Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross, maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will *know* that nothing can separate us from you.
Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe!
In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching

St Mary's Magazine Team

Editor	Kate Kennedy	bd4mag@msn.com	01937 843718
Advertising	Sandy Goodall	s.goodall@btinternet.com	01937 844827
Distribution	Anne Wivell		01937 843727
Treasurer	Anne Wivell		01937 843727
Printer	Write Design & Print Ltd, Wetherby		01937 588198

The deadline for articles to be included in the magazine is the 6th of the month prior to publication. Articles should ideally be emailed to the Editor ideally in Word format. They may also be hand-written or typed and handed in to the Parish Office. Magazines are usually in Church for collection on the last Friday of the month.

To set up an **Annual Subscription** please enquire to Anne Wivell.

Special Editions can be provided for anyone requiring copies in larger print.

© Copyright St Mary the Virgin Church, Boston Spa