

The Parish Church of St Mary's
Hilton with Marston-on-Dove

January 2020



NOTICES AND
SERVICES



Services in January

Sunday 5 th January	11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) <u>With the Good News Crew</u>
Tuesday 7 th January	11.00am Percy Wood Close
Sunday 12 th January	<i>10:30am United service at Hilton Methodist Chapel</i> (No service at St Mary's)
Sunday 19 th January	9.30am Holy Communion 11.00 am Family Service
Sunday 26 th January	11.00am Morning Prayer

Currently we are awaiting a new vicar as Reverend Andy Murphie has relocated to a parish in the Lake District. All services, baptisms and wedding bookings are proceeding as normal.

For up to date information on services please see

www.stmaryshilton.org

email: admin@stmaryshilton.org

phone: **01283 808408**

facebook: [@stmaryshiltonandmarston](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryshiltonandmarston)

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please let us know by email**

CHURCH NOTICES

Flowers in Church You would be very welcome to put flowers in Church or give a donation for flowers to remember a special occasion or anniversary. If you would like to do this please speak to a Churchwarden.



Stamp collection There is a collecting box for used postage stamps in the Church porch for 'Oxfam'.

Parochial Church Council

Next Meeting: Standing Committee/PCC – Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

PCC Members: Mrs. E. Barber (Churchwarden); Mr. N. Brown (Churchwarden); Mr. J. Murphie (Hon. Secretary); Mrs. H. Brown (Hon. Treasurer); Mr. S. Johnson; Mr. B. Keane; Mrs W. Morris; Miss C. Owen; Mrs. L. Rees-Jones; Mrs. P. Roberts; Mr. P. Walton-Knight; Mr. G. Draper; Mr L. Bean



Raise FREE FUNDS for the Church via the
[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website/app
search for St Mary's Hilton with Marston-on-Dove

Good News Crew



Next meetings:

Sunday 5th January
Sunday 2nd February
Sunday 1st March

The Good News Crew is an opportunity for children, aged 3 and up, to encounter bible stories in a fun and relevant way through activities, stories, craft and prayer. They usually meet on the ***first Sunday of each month*** and start with the normal service at 11am.

Please see Helen or Louise for further details

In our DIY Bible Study this month, we look at Mary the mother of Jesus. The thoughts and questions are adapted from the book '100 Stand-Alone Bible Studies' by Penelope Wilcock.

Bible passage Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but he has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Commentary

There are so many statues of Mary the mother of Jesus in the world! In all of them (except the ones where her expression is full of sorrow) her face is soft, gentle, calm and sweet natured. How else would we imagine a young maiden of such purity of heart that to her out of all humanity was entrusted the baby Jesus? But though the gentleness is beautiful, it doesn't quite sit right with the Magnificat, the Song of Mary – which is highly political, gutsy and revolutionary. If this is what she sang, Mary was more of a red-hot radical than a blushing violet. Near the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus preached at Nazareth (Luke 4:14-22) on the passage in Isaiah about the Lord's year of Jubilee, when the captives will go free and the sick be healed. "Today", he said, "this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus was the Son of God, sure enough, but never was he more his mother's son than in that moment. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of human rights." When Mary sang her Magnificat, we should imagine not the soulful piping of a docile schoolgirl, but Malvina Reynolds, Joan Baez, and Buffy Sainte-Marie all rolled into one. "My sooooooul doth *magnify* the Lord!!!" Alleluia! All right!!

Questions

- Many Christians have held the view that religion and politics don't mix – some Christian groups even refuse to vote because the kingdom of God is not of this world. Others hold passionately to the view that to mean anything the gospel must be worked out politically, changing society to eliminate poverty and alleviate inequality. What is your view on this?
- Mary's most famous words were spoken in response to the angel Gabriel announcing that she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus: "Be it unto me according to your word." This was a choice of great courage, as it brought her social disgrace in a culture where dishonor had very serious consequences indeed. Have there been times when you (or someone you know) have accepted something you believed to be the call of God, even though it meant tough times as a result? Or is there something like this you are trying to make your mind up about right now?
- Mary carried within her the baby Jesus. That is such a potent image for our own reflection! Can you think of ways in which we, too, can bear Jesus within us, and give birth to him in our day?

Prayer

O God of love, our imagination recoils from how hard it must have been for Mary to stand at the foot of the cross, and see Jesus crucified. Most of us would have found it unbearable, would have run away. May we be the kind of brave that Mary was – with the courage to stay with the ones we love and never abandon them, to accept disgrace and humiliation in the service of your calling, to hold bright the vision for a better world, to choose the way of miracles and amazing grace rather than shelter in what feels safe because it is normal. May we like Mary consent to receive the living Jesus, so that the grace of his salvation may be evident in our lives from day to day. For we ask it in Jesus' holy name; Amen.