

175th Celebration



Happy 175th Birthday St Mary's!! We hope you'll join us celebrating this anniversary year through a whole series of events through the year (see Event Calendar). The Events Team have been meeting to plan the year's events and will continue to update you.

January/ February Following repairs to the roof following the lead theft of 2014, we are now in the middle of an internal redecoration contract, due for completion end February. In the mean-time we are enjoying different opportunities given by meeting together in the hall for Sunday services. Please join us!

March see 'Mission Page' for details of **Bishop's Mission** 6th-10th

May see 'Mission Page': details of **Bishop Nathan's Visit** 12-13th

June Celebrations June 6-16th

June is our big month! And we intend to celebrate in style.

6th June St Mary's was consecrated on 6th June 1844. We're hoping to mark our 175th anniversary by an early evening event at Knowsley Hall – watch this space for more details

9th June Pentecost Sunday. This festival brings the 10 day '*Thy Kingdom Come*' initiative to a close, praying with churches across the land that we will know the power of God's Holy Spirit in our lives, and that we will see our communities transformed as God's kingdom comes

14-16th June **Flower Festival.** We are hoping that many will join our regular florists to celebrate our anniversary with the theme of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit : fire/wind/dove/water

16th June And we will bring the June Celebrations to a close in a **Celebration Service** with Bishop Paul Bayes, followed by a Picnic to remember!!!

Harvest Celebrations October 12-14th another big weekend!!

More details to follow but the current thoughts are to have a

- Messy Church in the hall on the Saturday, maybe 2-4pm, followed by a
- bake-off in church (blindfolded yes! – we're looking for judges!!) with tea and coffee
- with an Arts & Crafts exhibition running over the weekend as well,
- incorporating large collages from the schools and a big piece of 'messy artwork' from Messy Church

Please see Hilary Allan or Hugh with any thoughts how this could best be developed.

Events Team:

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175th Year of Mission

St Mary's: an 'Open Door' church sharing God's love for the world and a community growing in the love of Jesus Christ – 2019 has given us many opportunities to 'walk the talk' of mission as we share God's good news with our community: are you part of it?! The following highlights a few of these mission initiatives

Bishop's Mission: Ash Wed' 6th-10th March. 2019 is very much the year of mission– with dozens of bishops from the north of England gathering in Liverpool to share in special events being planned by local churches across the diocese, including us!

It has been incredibly exciting to see different events shaping up across our deanery (separate schedule), but our 2 events are as follows (hopefully in Knowsley Village Hall but depends on availability)

- **'Psychics & Spirits' Night, Friday 8th March 7-10pm** – an open evening hopefully with Bishop Paul, open to those who are still grieving and desperate for answers in their lives. More details to follow
- **'Curry & Quiz' Night, Saturday 9th March 7-10pm** – another curry and quiz special but open to a wider audience from the 4Saints Team and deanery
- **Closing Celebration Service Sunday 10th March 10.45am**

Bishop Nathan's Visit: May 12-13th We are so excited that Bishop Nathan from Rwanda is coming to visit us. He's been to Liverpool twice before and is an inspirational and engaging bishop – I guarantee you'll love him otherwise your money back!

Thank you to all those who've been supporting the Porridge Project and sponsoring the Water Filters over the last 2 years. Following Rev Hugh's visit in 2017, it will be fabulous to hear first-hand all that God is doing.

Bishop Nathan will be with us for a Team Service at St Luke's Sunday morning, then with us at St Mary's for tea & cakes and a special Celebration Service at 6.30pm, African style!

And then he's going to be joining Knowsley Village and St John Fisher Primary Schools Monday morning. The schools have been enthusiastically involved the last 2 years and we trust they will be further encouraged and inspired by Bishop Nathan.

Schools Work. As we look forward to Bishop Nathan joining us in school, please continue to pray for all the youngsters in our local schools, that the love of Jesus will transform many this year

Mission Partners. And please continue to pray for our various mission partners and charities we support, incl **Jenny & Eli Ayo** from Tanzania. 2019 is also a very special year for them as they and Nora & Alfie welcomed Jovan (meaning *God is gracious*) into their family on Jan 12th. Congratulations to them all! They are hugely appreciative of our partnership in their work with YWAM, and hope to visit us in 2020.

Mission Plan

The spire of St Mary's can be seen from far across the parish, a beacon, symbolic of the church's permanence and presence in the village over many generations. It is a safe and welcoming place, featured in our logo. The PCC agreed a new vision statement in 2016: **"To be an 'Open Door' church to share God's love for the world and be a community growing in the love of Jesus Christ."**

Short Term Objectives

Welcome & Worship

- Continue training sidespeople, with a simple welcome card
- Expand our Pastoral Visiting Team, with specific training
- Develop a collaborative approach to leading worship

Prayer & Discipleship

- Seek to embed prayer in our personal and corporate life, and Develop creative ways of praying, eg 'prayer circles'
- Follow up the year's mission initiatives with an Alpha Course

Personal Stories & Lay Leadership

- Encourage personal faith stories and answered prayer
- Identify lay gifts and continue training small group leaders
- Support all leaders involved in children's ministry

Mission & Community Involvement

- Keep asking how every activity communicates God's love
- Keep seeking opportunities to hold community events, eg BBQ's, Bonfire Night, Pensioners' parties, men's groups
- Continue to maximise links with village schools, especially through assemblies and Messy Church held in St Mary's
- Continue to broaden use of the hall and church, eg. for mums & tots groups, and more recently for Alcoholics Anonymous

Long Term Objectives: 2019-22

The PCC's commitment is to continue discerning and joining in with God's mission in Knowsley Village. This includes the potential reordering of church so it can be more accessible, flexible and useable. A Feasibility Study with costings is to be carried out. See separate noticeboard on 'Vision' and PCC minutes/Briefing Paper.

Financial Objectives

In our recent PCC meeting in January 2019, the PCC unanimously voted in favour of tithing 10% of our 2018 legacies to local causes and charities, with an intention to do the same for any future legacies – recognising the biblical principle of tithing monies which are gifted to us, to bless others in particular need.

We have not designated monies yet and are open to suggestions from the congregation – thank you!

175th Year of Vision



20/20 Vision! How good is your vision?

And how well do you see where God is leading us at St Mary's? As well as looking back and celebrating all the ways God has led his people at St Mary's over 175 years, we reflect that St Mary's has continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of mission and ministry in each generation.

Those who have gone before us have constantly sought to follow God's lead and seek his vision for changing needs and challenging times. We are now at another of those times, and have been asking the congregation to pray for us as a PCC as we continue seeking God's will for the future shape of ministry at St Mary's, and the best use of the building God has gifted us.

Our Mission Statement shapes us as an "Open Door Church," seeking to share God's love with all those in our parish, and to keep growing in our love for God and each other.

Please read the '**Briefing Document** to the Congregation' 8th Jan 2019 to consider the practical issues we face and the exciting possibilities offered through the legacies received last year.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Lea-Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a light-colored rectangular background.

Rev Hugh Lea-Wilson, Team Vicar 4Saints Team (Huyton Deanery)
based at St Mary's