

St Mary's Upton



faith for life in Jesus

Sunday 27 September 2026

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me."*

Mark 8:34

We live in a world that often measures strength by success, numbers, influence and resources. It can be easy for churches to do the same. We can look at what we have – or what we feel we lack – and wonder whether we have enough to make a difference.

Yet Jesus gives his disciples a very different picture of what it means to follow him. In Mark 8, he speaks openly about suffering and rejection, and then calls his followers to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him. The way of Jesus is not built around appearing strong, successful or impressive.

This is at the heart of our '**made perfect in weakness**' series. As a church, we are learning again that our weakness is not necessarily an obstacle to God's work. In fact, it can become the place where we discover our dependence on him and see his strength more clearly.

Taking up our cross together means being willing to put Jesus and his mission before our own comfort, preferences or desire for security. It means trusting that God can work through an ordinary, imperfect and sometimes struggling church.

Our confidence is not ultimately in what we can achieve, but in Christ – the one who went to the cross in apparent weakness, and through it accomplished God's saving purposes.

Yours in Christ,

Alec Ham (Associate Vicar)

St Mary's Verse for the Year:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." Psalm 127.1

The Seventeen Sunday after Trinity

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Church Office - The office will be open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Address for the St Mary's Church Centre, Saughall Massie

127-129 Saughall Massie Rd, Saughall Massie, Wirral CH49 4LA

Parish Safeguarding Pastoral Lead - Miriam Lambert. In the event of a safeguarding concern you can contact her by phone: **07763 826364**, or by email: **miriamsafeguarding@stm-upton.org.uk**



The church does not take a collection during the service but you can contribute to the ministry and mission of St Mary's by placing cash / cheques (payable to St Mary's Church) in the offering box, using the contactless card machine (at the Parish Church) or by scanning this QR code with your mobile phone. For further information please contact Graham Morris: graham@stm-upton.org.uk



2 Church Road, Upton, CH49 6JZ



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Coming up this week...

Sunday 27 Sep	8.45am	Morning Prayer at the Parish Church - Al Rodgers
	10.30am	Holy Communion at the Parish Church - Al Rodgers
	11am	Morning Worship at the Centre - Alec Ham
		<i>Made perfect in weakness: Take up your cross Mark 8.27-38</i>
	6pm	Evening Prayer at the Parish Church - Peter Ham
		<i>John 2.1-25</i>
Mon 28 Sep	10am - 11.30am	Tots Spot (0-4s) at The Centre
	11am - 12.30pm	Forget Me Not Café at the Parish Church
	3.30pm - 5.15pm	Drop In (11-18s) at The Bank
Tues 29 Sep	3.45pm - 4.45pm	Fuse After School Club (4-11s) at the Parish Church
Wed 30 Sep	9.30am-10.30am	Prayer Meeting in the Parish Church West Room
	11am	Holy Communion in the Parish Church West Room
		(with light lunch)
	3.30pm - 5.15pm	Drop In (11-18s) at The Bank
	5.30pm - 6.30pm	Bank Bible Study (11-18s) at The Bank
Thurs 1 Oct	10am-12pm	Our Place Café at The Centre
	10am - 11.30am	Dots 2 Tots (0-4s) at the Parish Church
	1pm - 2.30pm	Parish Nurse Drop in - West Room
	1.30pm - 3pm	Elderbranch at the Church Halls
Friday 2 Oct	3.30pm - 5.15pm	Drop In (11-18s) at The Bank
Sunday 4 Oct	8.45am	Holy Communion at the Parish Church - James Hsuan
	10.30am	All Age at the Parish Church
	11am	Morning Worship at the Centre - James Hsuan
		<i>Made perfect in weakness: Called in weakness Exodus 3.1-10</i>
	7pm	Sunday @ 7 at the Parish Church

Please pray for...

Mission Links: Please pray for **Karen and Stush Nyongesa in The Gambia**, as they balance work, teaching, church and other responsibilities, asking God for wisdom and grace. Give thanks for Karen passing her master's degree and presenting her research to Gambian doctors. Pray for wisdom in exploring how her research might be used to improve medical professionalism in The Gambia, and for opportunities to publish and share the work.

Acutely ill/or in hospital: Martin Hallett, Nigel Cooper, Emma (Fiona William's daughter), Alex Nolan, Tom Sewell, 'J' (aged 14) recovering from surgery and ongoing treatment, Ronnie (1yr) recovering from a stem cell transplant.

Please let us know of any names for personal prayer.

Praying for 0-18s...

Chaplaincy Update - In Woodchurch High School this week we are looking at the second of our School Christian Values, which is justice. We will be using Isaiah 1:17, and the lives of some famous people and charities, to help us think about how we can live out this value in school - to respect others, to treat them kindly, and to look out for those who might not be able to speak up for themselves. Open Evening takes place in school this week - please pray for year 6s and their grownups as they look around schools over the next few weeks and make decisions about which high school to choose.



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Could you help with Front of House and Serving Refreshments at The Little Mermaid? We are looking for some lovely smiley people from church to help at The Little Theatre during our productions. Roles would involve welcoming, making and serving tea and coffee, and ice cream, and handling money. Please speak with Inga if you would be willing to help on any of the nights.

Staff News:

Please pray for our Youth and Chaplaincy job advert to be spotted! The role is being advertised on several national church job websites, and also in more local networks. Please pray that God will be at work as we look forward to receiving applications (deadline 21st October). You can find full details of the job advert here: <https://stm-upton.org.uk/staff-vacancies/>

Dates for your diary:

SEPTEMBER

God of All the World: A Celebration of Worldwide Mission, Saturday 26th September, 12-4pm at Chester Cathedral. This celebration includes displays from mission agencies and Chester Diocese's global links (including those from St Mary's), music from around the world and an address by Bishop Anthony Poggio, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. Please contact Alastair Miatt (alastair@stm-upton.org.uk) if you would like more details.

OCTOBER

Sunday 4th October -Sundays at 7 with Rev John Naude: John has led an amazing life and through his own disability has encouraged others to find their own strength in taking part in wheelchair sports and activities. After the loss of his first wife whilst missionaries in Malawi, John has remarried and he and Janine are the proud parents of three adult children. John is currently a vicar in Rock Ferry; he will share a lifetime of faith, experience and wisdom on a wide range of Christian issues.

Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th October -The Little Mermaid at the Little Theatre, Birkenhead - We're counting down to this year's Treading the Boards production. Please put the dates in your diary and come along to support our casts in what promises to be another excellent production (don't ask us, we're biased, but ask anyone who's been in previous years). We'll also be asking for people to help us with front of house, refreshments, and a few other elements too, so if you think you could help please speak to Becca, Cat or Inga.

General Information:

We are delighted to announce that Peter Ham will soon officially be joining us as a Licensed Lay Minister in the parish. Peter has served as a Reader in Hoylake for many years, and having retired from that role, he will be transferring his license to join the St Mary's team. The official transfer will take place at a service in Chester Cathedral, on 10th October (2.00pm), which anyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to Peter's ministry among us!

Prayer Hub: We are pleased to be launching the Prayer Hub at the Parish church. The church will be open for private prayer or prayer with members of the Prayer Hub team, on **Friday 16th Oct, and most Fridays thereafter, from 2-4pm.** Please feel free to drop in - we look forward to welcoming you

Heritage Week: A big thank you to all the people who helped with the refreshments during the Heritage Week, we couldn't have organised it without you! Also, a big thank you to Les Parry for his interesting talk and to Peter Elliot and James Hsuan for their AV help with that. We welcomed almost 150 people into the church during the week and 76 people took part in our walks and/or the sketching session. (Simon Jones - Upton Heritage)



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Save the dates: OM's ship Logos Hope in Liverpool. The ship, which serves in mission all around the world, will be in Liverpool 22nd October - 5th November. There are lots of ways of getting involved - here's a taster, and full details (and essential booking information) can be found at <https://www.uk.om.org/waves-of-hope-liverpool>

- Visit the ship + the onboard cafe and Book Fair (£1 entry)
- Take a tour of the ship, Tuesdays - Sundays
- Kids on Deck (ages 4-11) 23rd and 28th October, 3.00pm
- Meet the World cultural event, 25th October 6.30pm
- Women's Conference, 27th October, 10.00am
- Prayer and Worship Night, 27th October, 7.30pm
- Seniors Event, 30th October, 10.30am
- Evangelism workshop, 31st October, 10.00am
- TeenStreet youth event, 31st October, 4.00pm
- Exploring workplace ministry, 1st November, 1.30pm
- Young Adults Worship Night, 3rd November, 7.00pm
- Youth Leaders forum, 4th November, 7.00pm

Eco Encouragement for the Season of Creation (1st Sept to 4th Oct): This season is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life. It is observed by Christian churches across the world to reflect specifically on God's wider creation, His relation to it and our own relationship with it. This is a time for us to worship, pray and ask ourselves what more we can do as stewards of God's created world.

Chair Based Exercise Class: The next session will be **October 8th**. If you are interested in joining please email: Lizzie@stm-upton.org.uk.

Poppy Appeal - During October and November until Remembrance Day, there will be a selection of Royal British Legion poppy appeal merchandise available on the welcome desk. Please bring cash to make a suitable donation. This will be run on an honesty basis.

T4U Christmas Shoe Boxes, from **Sunday 27th September**, there will be a plentiful supply of wrapped boxes at the Parish Church and the Centre in Saughall Massie. All of which contain a pamphlet showing you what is needed: there are some quite large boxes. If possible, could you try to keep these as Home Boxes? Many thanks to all of you as you pray over each item placed in your **BOXES of Love**. Thank you Alan.



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