

St Mary's Upton



faith for life in Jesus

Sunday 11th October 2026

Thankless Tasks - or linking your gifts with your passion?

Autumn debris requires maintaining and therefore a lot of you may have seen me armed with brush and shovel clearing the paths, pavements etc and a lot of passersby said to me 'that's a thankless task!' which got me thinking.

I did not take on the work to receive thanks. I had noticed that the beech nuts made the path difficult to walk along and awkward for anyone pushing a pram, using a walking aid or pulling a wheelie bin. God has given me eyes to see beyond the mess and a desire to present His church in a safe and welcoming way. Sweeping is my part in that work, as well as good exercise for my physical health.

I also care about the church's appearance and about keeping the yellow lines along the gutter visible. The task creates opportunities for conversation with local people and members of the church family, which I enjoy.

Because I have become more involved in recycling and reusing, I was delighted to receive a suggestion, to spread the beech nuts along a path in our conservation area rather than fill the brown bins with them. It meant more work, but it was satisfying to hear someone say that the path looked beautiful, with sunlight glinting on it through the trees. This was not a thankless task; it was a chance to use the gifts God has given me in a way that aligns with my passion.

Philippians 2:13 tells us, "It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

The heart's desire Paul describes reaches far beyond a calling to church leadership. It reflects the longing God places alongside all His gifts: the desire to use them. Passion is the divine exclamation mark that accompanies the gifts God gives us.

I have come to believe that no task is thankless when it allows us to use the gifts God has given us. In caring for His church, His world, His people I discovered a passion that motivates me to serve—a passion already placed in me by my heavenly Father. Wherever you feel most motivated to serve, our heavenly Father has already supplied you with the gifts you need to act in order to fulfil His good purposes.

Sandra Fletcher

St Mary's Verse for the Year:

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

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in 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



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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**

Coming up this week...

Sunday 11 Oct Harvest	8.45am	Morning Praise at the Parish Church - Alec Ham
	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Parish Church - Alec Ham
	11am	Morning Worship at the Centre - Al Rodgers
		<i>Made perfect in weakness: Harvest sharing - Ruth.2.1-18</i>
	6pm	Holy Communion at the Parish Church - Al Rodgers
Mon 12 Oct	10am - 11.30am	Tots Spot (0-4s) at The Centre
	11am - 12.30pm	Forget Me Not Café at the Parish Church
Tues 13 Oct	3.45pm - 4.45pm	Fuse After School Club (4-11s) at the Parish Church
Wed 14 Oct	9.30am-10.30am	Prayer Meeting in the Parish Church West Room
	11am	Holy Communion in the Parish Church West Room (with light lunch)
Thurs 15 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
Sunday 18 Oct	8.45am	Morning Praise at the Parish Church - Al Rodgers
	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Parish Church - Al Rodgers
	11am	Holy Communion at the Centre - Alec Ham
		<i>Made perfect in weakness: A persecution paradox - Acts 7.54-8.8</i>
	6pm	Evening Praise at the Parish Church - Nick Johnson <i>John 4.1-42</i>

Please pray for...

Mission Links: Please pray for the Bhele Bible Translation Team working in the DRC as they continue their work of making God's Word available in the Bhele language. Pray for protection, wisdom and perseverance for the team and their families, and for peace and stability in their communities. May God use their work to bring hope and faith to many.

Acutely ill/or in hospital: Beryl Henderson, Annemarie Gillett, Nigel Cooper, Martin Hallett, 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 our collective worship over the next 2 weeks we're thinking about Harvest - this week the focus is God's instruction to take care of others at Harvest Time. Please pray for our KS4 pupils as they begin to consider their post-16 and career options.

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/>



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Dates for your diary:

OCTOBER

Sunday October 11th Harvest Sunday - During the morning services there will be a collection of items for Wirral Foodbank and Charles Thompson Mission. Suggested Food Bank items at the moment are: All Tinned Meat, Potatoes, Veg, Fruit, Rice Pudding. Toiletries, Coffee and Pasta Sauces. CTM also take donations of food but also need men's toiletries including deodorant and shower gel.

Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th October -The Little Mermaid at the Little Theatre, Birkenhead -

Treading the Boards has its first run this Tuesday and will run through to Saturday. Evening shows start at 7pm, doors open at 6.30pm and Saturday Matinee doors open at 1pm, curtains up at 1.30pm. This is not a ticketed event. It is pay on the door only and we would prefer card payments if possible. There will be tea, coffee and ice creams available during the interval and we can accept cash for this. Tickets are £14 for adults and £7 for children. Come along, enjoy the show and support the young people.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st November - Sundays at Seven: Our guest will be **James Mildred**. James is currently the director of communications for the Christian charity CARE. He joined in 2014 and brings a wealth of experience to the role. He is a well known writer, campaigner and speaker on christian political issues. James is married to Cara and they have a daughter Azzurra with another baby due in December. He has a tremendous background in politics and will share with us an insight into politics today. Drinks at 6.30 with the interview in church at 7p.m.

General Information:

IPASC sends grateful thanks to St. Mary's Church for the generous donation to help in their fight against Ebola. A mobile loudspeaker was purchased and thanks to daily teaching in churches, market places, schools, village groups and other locations the Aru area remains free from the virus. Bunia in the Boga Diocese remains badly affected. Recently one of the refugee camps was attacked by rebels and people escaped with nothing to sustain them. Please continue to pray for Amuda in Bunia and IPASC staff and students in Aru. Further information from Gill Brown.

Livestreaming Update. Whilst we normally seek to livestream the 10.30am Sunday service, this will not be available on the 4th October, 1st November and 29th November. Please remember you can usually follow a livestream service, or catch up with previous sermons, on the St Mary's Church Upton YouTube channel.

"ARISE AFRICA" PETITION: STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING: The organisation Open Doors will be familiar to many of you as one of the chief agencies which supports persecuted Christians around the world. Their current campaign, "Arise Africa", invites you to sign a petition which will be sent to national governments, the African Union, the EU and UN. The petition asks for **Protection** against violent attacks; **Justice** through fair prosecutions of the attackers; and **Restoration** for affected communities. Please sign the petition at the back of church or on the front desk by the office, and add your support and prayers for our Christian family in Africa. It will be submitted at the end of October. For more information visit opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica - or speak to Alan Ward.

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

Save the dates: OM's ship Logos Hope in Liverpool.

There will also be a chance to hear about the work of the ship as two teams from Logos Hope visit us on Sunday 25th October for our 1030 and 1100 services. Do come along to hear their testimony. This will be followed by a bring your own picnic lunch at the parish church where you can chat more to the OM teams.



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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

Chair Based Exercise Class: The next session will be **22nd October**. 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, 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.



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



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