St Mary's Upton

faith for life in Jesus

Sunday 8th November 2026

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10-11

As Remembrance Sunday approaches, it's a natural time to think about battles, sacrifice, and what it means to stand firm. In our own everyday lives, we know what it feels like to face times of attack. It's easy in those seasons to think we must be doing something wrong or failing. But so often, it's quite the contrary: facing resistance is a clear sign that you are bringing God glory, and the enemy simply doesn't like it!

The good news is that we don't have to win the battle in our own strength. Romans 8 and 2 Corinthians 2 remind us that Christ has already secured the victory, and leads us in triumph with Him. Our part isn't to strive, but simply to stand firm equipped with the full armour of God as Ephesians 6 states – protecting our minds, guarding our hearts, and staying anchored in truth, peace, and faith. Whether God leads you to take action or simply to stand still in prayer this week, remember that He is the one holding you up.

As we reflect on peace and remembrance this Sunday, let's take heart knowing we are fully protected and held in His love.

Jess Parkhouse

Remembrance Sunday: There will be an act of remembrance at every service this Sunday. Morning Worship at the Centre will start at 10:50 so that our Act of Remembrance can tie in with the rest of the country, at 11am. There will also be a short Remembrance Service taking place at the War Memorial at Upton Library at 10:45am.

St Mary's Verse for the Year:
"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." Psalm 127.1

Prayer (Collect) for The Third Sunday before Advent:
God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through 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

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office@stm-upton.org.uk

Coming up this week…

Sunday 8 Nov	8.45am	Morning Prayer at the Parish Church - Graham Morris
Remembrance	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Parish Church - Dave Wood
Sunday	10:50am	Morning Worship at the Centre - Graham Morris
	Made perfect in weakness: Unlikely blessings Matthew 5.1-12	
	6.00pm	Holy Communion at the Parish Church - Al Rodgers, ***John 5:1-47***
Mon 9 Nov	10am - 11.30am	Tots Spot (0-4s) at The Centre
	11.00am - 12.00pm	Forget Me Not Café at the Parish Church
	3.30pm - 5.15pm	Drop In (11-18s) at The Bank
Tue 10 Nov	3.45pm - 4.45pm	Fuse after-school club (4-11s) at the Parish Church
Wed 11 Nov	9.30am - 10.30am	Prayer Meeting in the Parish Church West Room
	11.00am	Holy Communion in the Parish Church West Room, including act of Remembrance *(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
	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Whole Church Prayer Meeting at the Parish Church
Thurs 12 Nov	Please note there is no Our Place Café due to new carpet being laid at the Centre	
	Please note there is no Parish Nurse Drop in this week	
	1.30pm - 3pm	Elderbranch at the Church Halls
Friday 13 Nov	3.30pm - 5.15pm	Drop In (11-18s) at The Bank
Sunday 15 Nov	8.45am	Morning Prayer at the Parish Church - Alec Ham
	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Parish Church - Peter Ham
	11.00am	Holy Communion at the Centre - Alec Ham
	Made perfect in weakness: Trust God more than common sense, 2 Kings 20.12-19	
	6.00pm	Evening Praise at the Parish Church - Graham Morris, ***John 6:1-71***

Please pray for…

Mission Links: Update – Logos Hope in Liverpool. Please pray for the visit of Logos Hope to Liverpool, now scheduled for 27 October – 8 November. Pray for the crew and volunteers as they welcome visitors, and for meaningful conversations that spark curiosity about Jesus. Pray against any further storms or disruption to the tour, and ask God to use the visit to open doors for the gospel and draw people to himself.

Acutely ill/or in hospital: Ruth Callaghan, David Lloyd, Christine Clarke, Annemarie Gillett, Martin Hallett, Alex Nolan, Tom Sewell, 'J'.

Please let us know of any names for personal prayer.

Woodchurch High School Chaplaincy – We are starting a collective worship series this week, based on the film The Man Who Invented Christmas, about the life of Charles Dickens. This week we're looking at success and failure – comparing earthly perceptions of success and failure with how the apostle Paul defines success: eternity with God. We thank God for the generosity we see in the school community throughout the year, but particularly over the next few weeks, as we announce this year's school charities and we collect for the CAP Christmas Hampers.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Meeting. Prayer has been described as "the Christian's vital breath", and it's powerful and effective, especially when we meet to pray together. As well as our monthly church prayer meeting (7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month), we also have a weekly Wednesday morning prayer meeting (9.30-10.30am in the West Room - arrive and leave whenever you need). This is a special time when we pray together and see prayers answered. Everyone is welcome. We would be delighted for you to join us.

Opportunities to Engage…

The Prayer Hub, Fridays 2-4pm. We would love to enable anyone who wants to come into church for a time of quiet or personal prayer to be given the opportunity. For this to happen long term we really need a few more volunteers who would be able to come on a Friday, once or twice a month. The volunteers would be there to welcome others and if asked, to pray with, or for, other hub users. The role requires a Basic level DBS, and basic and foundation level safeguarding training – which we are happy to support you with. If you are interested, or would just like to know a little more please feel free to chat to Miriam Lambert (0765351876) or Lizzie Hsuan (07763826371)

Could you join our Wednesday Communion Refreshments team? We serve refreshments and a light lunch to our friends who attend Wednesday Communion in the West Room. We are looking for more volunteers and would love you to join our rota, with availability to help once a month on Wednesdays from 10:15am-1pm. Don't worry, you won't be alone but will be helping alongside another volunteer. Your help will be very much appreciated and is a great way of serving God in a practical way. For further details, please contact Miriam Lambert, 07565 351876, or David Steele in the Church Office. Thank you

CAP Christmas Hampers: CAP Wirral are once again asking for donations for the client Christmas hampers. We would appreciate items such as mince pies, Christmas puddings, and special treats such as chocolates and biscuits. In addition, could we please ask for items such as savoury rice and pasta packets, toiletries, and jars of sauces. The collection cage is now in place at St Mary's and the collection box is out at The Centre. They will be available until **Sunday 6th December**. Thank you, we very much appreciate your generous support!

Staff News:

Following some staffing changes, we have a **vacancy** in our **Pastoral Care team**, and are seeking to appoint a ***Pastoral Care Worker*** (Job-share, 3 hours per week at £13.96/hour, until 30th September 2027).

The main duties of the role will include:

- Being a proactive pastoral presence at the Forget-me-not café (2hrs a week, Monday morning)
- Some home/care home/hospital visiting.
- Helping coordinate home/small groups.

As part of our pastoral care team this role will contribute to our support and care of church members and the wider community. It would be ideal for someone with a heart for pastoral care, a mature Christian faith, and is both self-motivated and a team player.

The Church of England is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This appointment is subject to safer recruitment procedures, satisfactory references, an enhanced DBS check with barred list clearance, and completion of required safeguarding training.

Lizzie Hsuan, Parish Nurse, is on annual leave next week. There will be no Nurse Drop in on Thursday 12th November.

Dates for your Diary:

NOVEMBER

Repair Café – Saturday 21st November, 10-12: If you've got a small domestic electrical item, worn out and torn clothes, bikes, wooden objects or computers, in need of repair, please bring it along and our volunteers will have a look – if we can't repair it, we'll let you know. Only one item per person

Commemorative Service – Sunday 22nd November, 3pm: You are warmly invited to attend this short service in which we give thanks for the lives of family members and/or friends we've lost in recent years. Slips of paper will be available for you to write the name of the person you are remembering. During the service we will read out the names and light a candle as we remember. Refreshments will served in the Atrium and West room after the service."

Tots Swap Shop – Thursday 26th November, 10-11:30am: A freecycle-style event for toys, books, puzzles and clothes that are suitable for 0-4s, and in a condition that you would be happy for your child/grandchild to receive as a gift, because Christmas is just around the corner! Donations of any suitable items, including Christian books, can be brought to church until Friday 20th November to allow time to sort and display the items.

DECEMBER

Sundays at 7 – Sunday 6th December, 7pm: Our guest will be the **Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley**. Following a call to ordination at the age of just four, Sam's faith journey led him to University in Durham, teaching in South London, and training for the ministry in Nottingham. He has served God's people in Lancaster, Bradford and Leeds before becoming Bishop of Stockport. A host of wonderful stories and an evening not to be missed. Join us for drinks at 6.30pm with the interview at 7pm.

On the Bethlehem Beat – Friday 11th December, 5pm: Angels, Shepherds and Missing Wallets! Big city cop Sgt. Barton has been reassigned to the sleepy town of Bethlehem – but with census crowds, a thief at large and a conspiracy surrounding a new king, it won't be a silent night! Join 4Front Theatre for a copper caper filled with laughs, music and a whole load of festive silliness in this cops and robbers pan-tivity, delivering all the fun of a panto while celebrating the hope found in the gospel message at the heart of the nativity. Hot dogs, ice creams and games at 5pm, with the performance at 6pm. Tickets will be available online soon.

General Information:

Live-streaming Update: Whilst we normally seek to livestream the 10.30am Sunday service, this will not be available on 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.

Chair Based Exercise Class: The next session will be **19th November**. If you are interested in joining, please email: Lizzie@stm-upton.org.uk.

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

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