

January

at **ST MARY'S**

*Loving God
Loving Luton
Following Christ*



It's fair to say that life is made up of the highs and the lows. Sometimes the lows far outweigh the highs, and life is tough. Sometimes it's very tough. A new year gives the opportunity to say "That's done with now" and start the new year afresh. To do that it's good to name the things that have been challenging and give thanks for what has been good. And then to think ahead and commit the new challenges to God. We trust you are able to do that as 2019 begins.

There is no doubt 2018 had its challenges for us at St Mary's. We started the year with the church heating out of action. It soon became clear that we had a big project ahead of us, the installation of a completely new heating system to replace the system that was installed way back in the Victorian era. Planning for a new system has had its challenges. Along the way there have been disappointments, a number of hopes and dreams have been dashed. And to be honest, like all churches, our numbers have been declining. We cannot ignore these things.

Yet as we pushed forward, hope arose, at the opportunity to invest into the next 100 years of the church. And as we've proceeded we've been

amazed at the generosity of you, the people of God who worship here, as well as external trusts, all making that investment possible. We look back with thanks for all that.

And now as we start 2019 we look forward to the contractors arriving on 7th January to begin installation of the new heating. There will be inconveniences for sure, but we trust they become insignificant as we look forward to the work being completed and a wonderful warm church building to worship in. We still need to raise just short of £100,000, so do please pray. However we will definitely be celebrating when towards the middle of the year we gather for the celebration that the work is completed! (News of that will follow when we know when it is!)

Beyond that we look forward to all the new missional opportunities a warm and welcoming church will give us. Please join us in prayer that 2019 will be a very positive one for St Mary's, Luton.

Peter Adams, on behalf of the rest of the heating team – Rebecca Orrin, Andy Gardner and Anthony Moss

Heating - Practical notes:

During the building work the church from the Sacristy door to the church will be handed over to the contractors and will be a restricted building site, meaning it is totally off limits to all church members, including staff and volunteers responsible for various areas of church life.

Also, during the building work the back church road and car park will be used regularly by the contractors and **will not be available** for parking during the week, except by key holders. ***The car park will be free to use on Sundays.***

Baptisms & Confirmations

We will be holding an Adult Baptism service in February/March and a Confirmation service on Sunday 10th March at 10.30am Please speak to Mike or Andy if you are interested in either of these.

Fairtrade Stall

Next open: 6th January

Prayer Opportunities

Prayer unlocks the channels through which God works in our world Prayer is vital for underpinning the work God wants to do in us and through us. We will be encouraging one another to step up in prayer and to grow in being people of prayer in 2019.

Prayer Prompt

Each week, in the prayer section of the MailChimp, we will send out a prompt for what to focus prayer for St. Mary's on in that week. Let's get into the habit of praying in unity by using the prayer prompt to pray.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

We are continuing with the monthly prayer time, first Sunday of the month, 9:30 - 10:15 (9:30 am for silent prayer, 9:45 for together prayer so people from both congregations can join in). Do plan to make this meeting a priority.

Weekly Prayer

There is the opportunity to pray together weekly on a Monday morning 8 am - 8:50 am as we prayer walk around St Mary's. Evening details to be announced.

Learning to Pray

We will also be having a prayer input at various points throughout the year during the 10:30 morning service, to help us journey deeper into prayer.

Church Services

Church at 7

JANUARY

6th 9am Communion & Healing
10.30am All Together
7.00pm Church at 7

13th 9am Hymns at 9
10.30am Holy Communion
7.00pm Church at 7

20th 9am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
7.00pm Church at 7

27th 9am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
7.00pm Church at 7

FEBRUARY

6th 9am Communion & Healing
10.30am All Together
7.00pm Church at 7

Encounter, Community, Equipping - meeting every Sunday at 7pm. 1st Sunday focussing on leadership.

Starts back 6th January

Midweek

SOUL SPACE

Every Wednesday, 12.15 pm
30 minutes of worship & light lunch.
To recharge, reconnect, and refill yourself for the rest of the day.

Starts back 9th January

SMALL GROUPS

A variety of groups meet on week-nights. See Eleanor Hearing for more information.

PRAYER NET

For urgent/emergency prayer requests email pastoral@stmarysluton.org or call 07483 898726

Prayer Space

We're hoping to set up a weekly prayer space for personal prayer. Further details from Eleanor

Children & Youth

SUNDAYS

Crèche: ages 0-2

Sparklers: ages 3-5

Fuse: ages 5-11

Encounter: years 7-9

Oxidize: years 10-13

MIDWEEK (TERM TIME ONLY)

CHIMPS— mums and toddler group
Wednesdays, 10-11.30am @ St Mary's

Restarts on 16th January

IMPACT— youth club for years 7-13
Mid-week—see Adam for details

Games, activities & food

VISIT www.stmarysluton.org or
CONTACT youth@stmarysluton.org or for children's work
sharonsookrah@stmarysluton.org for more information

THIS MONTH WE PRAY...

... giving thanks for all the ways God has blessed us in 2018

... that more of God's Kingdom would Come and His will would be done in our lives, in St Mary's and in Luton this year.

... that God would grow St Mary's, both in making new disciples, and, in knowing Jesus better over the coming year.

... for the heating project. For ongoing provision as we fundraise the remaining money. For our architect Mark Ed-ison, Pinnacle the heating consultants, main contractor Lodge & Sons and Stonegrove the heating engineers. For safety for all involved. For speedy progress and no unexpected issues to emerge.

... for those who are sick or bereaved in our congregation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6th JAN Normal Service times resume

7th JAN Church office re-opens

9th JAN Soul Space restarts

16th JAN Chimps restarts

NEW TO US?

Check out the welcome desk as you walk into St Mary's for information on all different areas of life at St Mary's.

You can also visit our website www.stmarysluton.org

PASTORAL NEEDS

If you need or know anybody else who needs support, help, a visit or prayer, please speak to Sue Carter or contact pastoral@stmarysluton.org

KEEPING UP WITH ST MARY'S

The best way to keep up with what's happening is to join our mailing list. Sign up on our website

www.stmarysluton.org/contact-us

Tweet us & follow us

@stmarysluton & @mikejinluton

@petergmadams

We tweet using #SMLTN

GIVING

Our financial gifts make this church possible and every gift makes a difference. You can give during the offering on Sundays (by cash or cheque to **Luton St Mary's PCC**) or by setting up a standing order or one off payment to:

Luton St Mary's PCC

Sort Code: **20-53-97**

Account number: **80600709**