

# August

## at **ST MARY'S**

*Loving God*  
*Loving Luton*  
*Following Christ*



I love August. I always have. It's that time of year I associate with holidays and rest. As Christians it's also a time when we pause from the normal run of things. The call to rest is written into the rhythms of faith that the Bible calls us to. God resting on the seventh day of creation. In our morning services we are reading through Mark and in chapter 6 we see Jesus saying to his followers, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile."

The roots of the term holiday come from "holy-day", holidays were originally sacred days offering an opportunity for spiritual reflection. In this way they can not only be restful, but also opportunities for growth. As Christians seeking to live joyful whole lives serving those around us, the best thing we can offer our communities is ourselves, so growing in understanding and character forms the basis for our engagement.

Two summer inputs for that are camps and reading / listening to podcasts. As I write some of our church family are at New Wine. Later in the month 25 of our young people are off to Soul Survivor; others will be at River Camp at the end of the month. You may be allergic to camping so for

your info next year New Wine is moving to Peterborough where you will be able to glamp (or at least Airbnb) so bear that in mind for next year! We may not be going off somewhere for some input but most of us can read / listen. Reading is an obvious way to go about that growth – and most books are available on audio now. I've been reading *Transforming Fellowship: 19 Brain Skills That Build Joyful Community Paperback* by Chris M. Coursey which is a remarkable book which helps everyone who absorbs its message. I've picked up Ruth's book *Exploring the Prophetic Devotional: A 90 day journey of hearing God's Voice* by Shawn Bolz which is so encouraging on listening to the Lord; one I've not read but is on my list for the year is *Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope* by Justin Welby.

Whatever we do this summer let's seek to be rested and refreshed in the Lord. As we come back we will find the building project in full swing. We plan to move out of the church building the week before the last Sunday in August. As I write we are getting contractors writing to say that they will be tendering for work with us.

Continued over....

So Rebecca as the Building Project Operational Lead is very busy so please bear with us as the staff team and others are shouldering an immense amount of work.

Today I was chatting to Bob Morrison about doing a fundraising parachute jump & cycle ride for 50% Air Ambulance and 50% church. I'm looking to raise support from outside church more than within. Maybe you can think

of something that will capture people's imagination and raise some funds.

Last week Young Church raised over £75 by having an ice cream sale so thank you to them! St Mary's building is a hub that serves our town, where we meet one another and worship God. Let's work together to fix its current needs and secure its future ministry.

Every blessing, Mike.



## ST MARY'S APPEAL

*Helping Luton's medieval  
jewel keep shining!*

### **Barn Dance - 28th September, 7.30pm**

Join us for a Barn Dance raising money for the Heating. Invite your friends for a fun evening of dancing. Tickets are £10 and include soft drinks and nibbles. Bring your own alcohol. Family tickets (2 adults & 2 children) are £35.

**Tickets available now at: [stmarysluton.org/events](http://stmarysluton.org/events)**

### **Church Quiz Night - 13th October, 7pm**

The much anticipated Church Quiz night is back! Get a team together to vie for the coveted position of St. Mary's Quiz Champions. Tickets cost £8.50 and include a meal (pulled pork/veggie option). Full teams of 8 are just £60. If you have a smaller group we can match you up with others to form a team.

### **Craft Sale - 24th November, 10.30am-2.30pm**

Rosemary Rodell is organising a craft market. If you would like to make something to sell or could help with refreshments, please speak to Rosemary.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

**Do you have a fundraising idea? Would you like ideas on how to help raise money for the heating fund?**

**[www.stmarysluton.org/st-marys-church-appeal](http://www.stmarysluton.org/st-marys-church-appeal)**

## Church Services

## Church @ 7

### AUGUST

**5th** 9am Communion & Healing  
10.30am Morning Worship

**12th** 9am Hymns at 9  
10.30am Holy Communion

**19th** 9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Worship

**26th** 9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

### SEPTEMBER

**2nd** 9am Communion & Healing  
10.30am All Together

Church @ 7 is on holiday in August. We will be starting back in September.

## 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

## Parking Reminder

Only permit holders can park in the off road spaces on St. Mary's Road Monday to Saturday.

## Children & Youth

### SUNDAYS

Crèche: ages 0-2

Sparklers: ages 3-5

Fuse: ages 5-11

Encounter: years 7-9

Oxidize: years 10-13

There will be no crèche or youth activities in August.

Activities for children will be held in the hall. Under 5s will need to be accompanied by an adult.

### MIDWEEK (TERM TIME ONLY)

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

PULSE– youth club for yrs 7-9  
Mondays, 17.00-18.30 @ St Mary's

KINETIC– youth group for yrs 9-13  
Thursdays, 17.00-18.30

Games, fun & faith based discussion

VISIT [www.stmarysluton.org](http://www.stmarysluton.org) or

CONTACT [youth@stmarysluton.org](mailto:youth@stmarysluton.org) or for children's work  
[sharonsookrah@stmarysluton.org](mailto:sharonsookrah@stmarysluton.org) for more information

## THIS MONTH WE PRAY...

... for our Youth and team attending Soul Survivor. Pray that the young people will experience God in a new way.

... for those returning from Summer Camps. That they may be able to apply what they have learnt in their day to day lives.

... for all taking holidays this month, for refreshment, fun and safety.

... for all receiving exam results later in August, for decisions that have to be made; and for all preparing to change school or go to uni in September.

... for the continuing work on the heating project. For the availability of the right contractors and for wisdom in selecting contractors.

## BELLRINGING

Would you like to join our bellringers? If you would like to try or for more information please contact Dee Vanner (Hon. Secretary) on (01582) 619738

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15<sup>th</sup> SEP Volunteer BBQ, 7pm

28<sup>th</sup> SEP Barn Dance, 7.30pm

13<sup>th</sup> OCT Church Quiz Night, 7pm

24<sup>th</sup> NOV Craft Market, 10.30am

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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: **20-53-30**

Account number: **80600709**