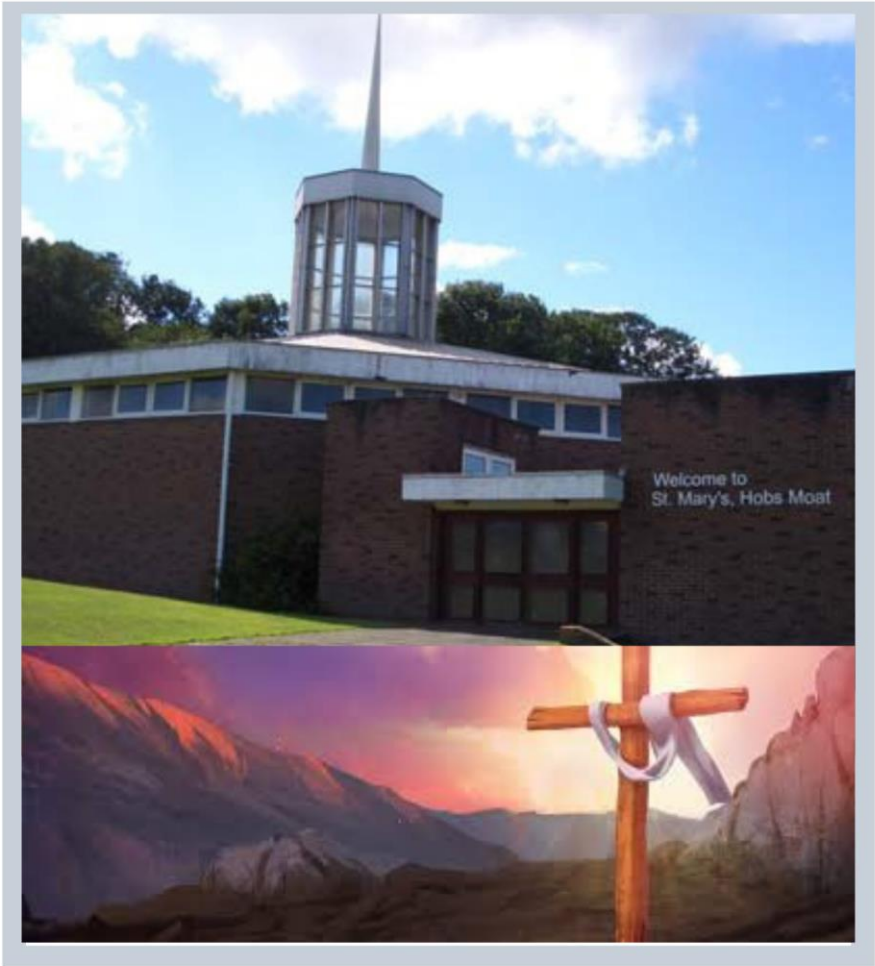


# The Moat

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
BIRMINGHAM

The magazine for St. Mary's Parish Church  
and the local community of Hobs Moat



**March/April 2024**

**Price : 50p**

# St Mary's Church, Hobs Moat

Vicar – Rev. Bekah Clark

St Mary's Church, Hobs Meadow, Solihull, B92 8PN

☎ 07462 038151

✉ [revbekahclark@gmail.com](mailto:revbekahclark@gmail.com)

Churchwardens

Greg Dodd  
Jan Turner

☎ 706 4859  
☎

Pastoral Ministry Team

Jean Davies

☎ 705 6558

## Worship on Sundays

10:00 am : Parish Communion or All Age Worship

## Midweek Worship

Every Thursday - 9:30 am : Holy Communion or Morning Prayer in the Chapel

## Enquiries

For arrangements for weddings, baptisms and funerals, please contact Rev. Bekah Clark on 07462 038151

To make a Church Hall booking enquiry please email:  
[stmaryshobsmoat@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryshobsmoat@gmail.com)

Any future articles can be emailed to: [stmarysmag@googlemail.com](mailto:stmarysmag@googlemail.com)

Website: [www.stmaryschurchhobsmoat.org](http://www.stmaryschurchhobsmoat.org)



Facebook: [stmaryschurchhobsmoat](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchhobsmoat)

Twitter: [StMarysHobsMoat](https://twitter.com/StMarysHobsMoat)



## Focal Point...

What makes you feel alive? The wind on your face, your morning cup of coffee, time with loved ones or perhaps singing at the top of your voice?



The things that give us life are often things which give us a sense of freedom or a sense of purpose, things that make us feel hopeful or peaceful.

At Easter, Christians celebrate an event that changed the world: the resurrection of Jesus. We celebrate that Jesus is alive!

One of the most well-known verses in the entire Bible is John 3.16, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus that we might have life - 'in Christ all will be made alive' as the apostle Paul puts it in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15.22).

New life is at the heart of the Christian faith. This is why many adults choose to be baptised by full-immersion. Not only does the use of water in baptism symbolise life - water is necessary for survival - but the going down into the water symbolises dying to sin, to the 'old life', and coming up out of the water symbolises being raised to new life in Christ.

Whilst there will likely be a number of things that make each of us feel alive, often these things are transitory - my morning cup of coffee doesn't last for ever! And the reality is, not all the things we look to to give us life, deliver on their promises. Some are even harmful for us. Money or fame, for example, rarely seem to lead to fulfilment.

The new life offered to each one of us in Jesus is a life of freedom, purpose, hope and peace. It's life that we don't have to create for ourselves, we just have to choose to accept. It's life offered by the God who made us and loves us, where we have a secure identity and a clear purpose.

My experience is that I am always more free living God's way than I am living my own way.

This Easter, may we discover, or rediscover, how Jesus' resurrection meets our deepest longings to feel alive.

Please do consider joining us at 10am on Easter Day if you'd like to find out more.

Every blessing,

Bekah



## Thought for Lent

Christians are Christlike; none deserves the name of Christian who is not so in his prevailing character.

*Jonathan Edwards*



## Thought for March

What is the best commentary on the Bible? The Bible itself.

*Samuel Wesley*

## Thought for April

Faith is blind - except upward. It is blind to impossibilities and deaf to doubt. It listens only to God.

*Samuel Dickey Gordon*



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad.  
Did you know that God emailed the Ten  
Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

**St. Mary's Market**

**Including**

**Car  
Boot  
Sale**

£6 per car

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

9.00 am – 1.00 pm  
**St. Mary's Church Car Park**  
Hobs Meadow, Solihull  
No need to book, just turn up on the day

Refreshments Available

Could be cancelled if bad weather on the day

## St Mary's Market and Car Boot Sale

The first St. Mary's Market and Car Boot Sale of 2024 takes place on the church car park on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. This is a good chance to have a spring clean of your unwanted items, and make a bit of money. No need to book a place, just turn up on the day as we have plenty of space - still a bargain at only £6 per car. Refreshments are available.

The date for the following event is Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

## Carpentry & Joinery

All aspects of Carpentry & Joinery

- Garden Decking
- Stairs & Banisters
- Door Hanging
- Kitchens Fitted
- Fitted Cupboards & Storage
- Alterations & Garage Conversions
- Friendly & Efficient Service



Contact : **Steve Tremayne**

Telephone : 0121 743 8185



### **\*\* New Sunday Service Time \*\***

**9.30am from Sunday 14th April**

From Sunday 14th April, our Sunday Morning Service at St Mary's will start at 9.30am and last for around 45/50 minutes.

This is to enable Bekah to be at both St Mary's and Elmdon Church on the same Sunday. The usual pattern will be:

1st Sunday: All Age Worship

2nd Sunday: Holy Communion

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship

4th Sunday: Holy Communion

5th Sunday: Celebration Sunday (Joint All Age Holy Communion with Elmdon Church, twice a year at St Mary's and twice a year at Elmdon Church)

In general, on the 3rd Sunday of the month Bekah will just be at Elmdon Church and on the 4th Sunday of the month Bekah will just be at St Mary's.

If you would like to discuss the change of time further, or have any concerns or questions, please do speak to Bekah.



## Lent Group

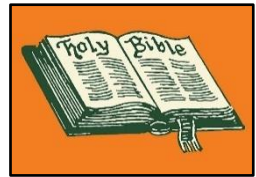
Jan Turner will be leading a Lent Group at St Mary's, the sessions started on Thursday 15th February after the morning service in the chapel, and will continue throughout Lent on 7th, 14th & 21st March.

The focus of the group will be on the sayings of Jesus, as found in the Gospels, and how they relate to our everyday life. There will be two questions for group discussion, silence, music and prayer.

Each session will start after the Thursday morning service at around 10.15am, lasting for about an hour. Everyone welcome.

## The Bible Course

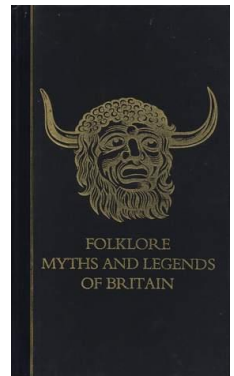
Tuesdays 16th, 23rd & 30th April, 14th & 28th May, 4th & 11th June - 7.30-8.45pm at St Mary's.



The course combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings. It will help you explore the BIG story and will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. It provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book.

## British Folklore Facts Throughout the Year

As we journey on through 2024, we carry on looking at some of the weird and wonderful British folklore facts and stories from our little island which relate to each month of the year (courtesy of Projectbritain.com), continuing in this month's edition by looking at March and April.



### Superstition

If Easter should fall on Lady Day (March 25) then some disaster will shortly follow:

*'When my Lord falls in my Lady's lap,  
England beware of some mishap.'*

## Borrowed Days

The last three days of March were said to be borrowed from April.

'March said to April, I see 3 hoggs upon a hill;  
And if you'll lend me dayes 3, I'll find a way to make them dee.  
The first o' them wus wind and weet,  
The second o' them wus snaw and sleet,  
The third o' them wus sic a freeze,  
It froze the birds' nebs to the trees.  
When the 3 days were past and gane,  
The 3 silly hoggs came hirpling hame.'

## Oranges and Lemons

In the days when the River Thames at London was wider than it is now, barges carrying oranges and lemons landed just below the churchyard of St. Clements Dane. On the last day of March, local primary school children gather at the church to attend a service. They recite the famous nursery ' rhyme and, on occasions, play the tune on hand bells. At the end of the service, the children are presented with an orange and a lemon from a table outside the church.

The nursery' ' rhyme, which begins with the lines:

'Oranges and lemons  
Say the bells of St Clement's'.



## April Fools Day

April begins with a day of fun and jokes - April Fool's Day. No one really knows when this custom began but it has been kept for hundreds of years.

*The First of April, some do say  
Is set apart for All Fools Day;  
But why the people call it so,  
Not I, nor they themselves do know*

## Daffodil Sunday

The 1st Sunday in April is called Daffodil Sunday. In Victorian times families picked daffodils from their gardens and took them to local hospitals to give to the sick.



## **Candle Auctions**

On 6 April there used to be Candle Auctions. A candle was lit, and a pin stuck in it about two and a half centimetres from the top. Then people would start bidding for a piece of church land to let to the poor for a year. The person bidding when the candle burned down enough to let the pin fall became the owner of the land.

## **Primrose Day**

In the late 19 century, 19 April was celebrated as Primrose Day in memory of British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield), who died on this day in 1881. People were encouraged to pay tribute to the statesman by wearing primroses as they were supposedly his favourite flower. However, it seems there was a misunderstanding and that the flower was not his favourite after all. Queen Victoria sent a wreath of primroses to Disraeli's funeral with a note stating that they were "his favourite flowers"; people assumed that the 'his' referred to Disraeli, but in fact it referred to Victoria's late husband, Prince Albert.

# **Saint Mary's Church, Hobs Moat, Solihull**

## **PRAYER DIARY**

*Lord God, through our prayers help us to purify our desires & our worship; help us in all things to seek your purpose for us. Amen.*

## **MARCH 2024**

**Mar 1 Pray for Wellsford Ave., Harvard Road, & Melton Ave.  
For all who care for the sick, the lonely and the homeless.**

**Mar 2 Pray for Beamans Close, Lyndon Rd., Campden Green  
For Schools in the parish, Governors, Staff and pupils.**

**Mar 3 All Age Worship 10.00am  
Pray for Daylesford Rd., Eastbury Dr., Blaythorn Ave.  
For those who dust and clean St Mary's Church.**

- Mar 4 Pray for Dallimore Close, Norbury Grove, Cloudsley Grove  
For all who are in employment & those unemployed.**
- Mar 5 For all organisations who use our Hall each week.  
Pray for Ulleries Rd., Burford Close, Colesbourne Rd.**
- Mar 6 Pray for Elkstone Close, Brackleys Way & Moordown Ave.  
For those who are housebound especially Church members.**
- Mar 7 Holy Communion 9.30am  
Pray for Windrush Close, Hobs Meadow, Hobs Moat Rd &  
Evenlode Rd.  
For the witness of St Mary's Church to all who pass by.**
- Mar 8 Pray for Westcote Close, Winchcombe Rd, Broadwell Rd.  
For the staff and work of Lyndon Clinic.  
For Bekah and Sue, and all others who take services for us.**
- Mar 9 Pray for Castle Lane, Greyfort Cres., & Arundel Cres.  
For our servers and those who assist at Communion.**
- Mar 10 Parish Communion 10.00am  
Pray for Dene Court Rd., Knightsbridge Rd., The Dell  
For all who have disabilities which restrict their lives.**
- Mar 11 Pray for Onslow Cres., Summerfield Rd., Kimberley Rd.  
For all who contribute to the music for our worship.**
- Mar 12 Pray for Highwood Av., Oakham Way, Gosford Walk  
For those who work at Land Rover Factory and all who  
travel through the Parish to work each day.**
- Mar 13 Pray for Berwood Grove, Rodney Rd., Dursley Close  
For those who prepare "The Moat" Parish Magazine  
Editor, Printers, Assembly Team, Distributors and Readers**
- Mar 14 Morning Prayer & Lent Group 9.30am  
Pray for Dovehouse Lane, Dovecote Close, Redfern Close  
For the elderly & their pets who help them.**

**Mar 15 Pray for Castle Close, Faulkner Rd., Trinity Close**  
**For Shop keepers and their assistants.**  
**For the Pastoral Team who visit the sick.**

**Mar 16 Pray for Cranhill Close & Rodney Close**  
**For those who wash and clean the altar linen at St Mary's.**

**Mar 17 Morning Worship 9.30am**  
**Pray for Old Lode Lane, Jillcot Rd., Jeremy Grove**  
**For those who beautify St Mary's Church with flowers.**

**Mar 18 Pray for Ebrington Ave., Glenside Av., Windsor Drive.**  
**For all Doctors & Specialists & all who care for the sick and lonely.**

**Mar 19 Pray for Merevale Rd., Odensil Green, Tanhouse Farm Rd.**  
**For all Doctors & Staff at Hobs Moat Medical Centre and Meadowside Surgery.**

**Mar 20 For all sick people especially those in hospital.**  
**Pray for Mayswood Rd., Linsey Rd., Cophams Close**  
**For Sidesmen & women who welcome all who come to St Mary's services.**

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**Pray for Arlescote Rd., Frankton Close, Leafield Rd.**  
**For God's blessing on all mothers, fathers, single parents and grandparents.**

**Mar 22 Pray for Charingworth Rd, Leam Cresc., Lammas Close.**  
**For those who serve coffee after our 10am services.**

**Mar 23 Pray for Evenlode Close, Lode Lane, Hillhampton Close.**  
**For those who are sick at home and in hospital.**  
**For Lyndon Residents Association.**

**Mar 24 Parish Communion 10.00am**  
**Pray for Kelham Place, Kempsey Close, Farmstead Rd.**  
**For those who advertise in 'The Moat' Parish magazine.**

**Mar 25 Pray for St Mary's officials – Greg & Jan our Churchwardens,  
Marina our PCC secretary, Vernon our Treasurer.  
Pray for Highcroft Close, Norgrave Rd. Woodhall Croft.**

**Mar 26 Pray for congregation members living outside the Parish,  
all who use the Fitness Centre & Ice Rink.**

**Mar 27 Pray for members of the PCC.  
For Parkview Day Centre.**

**Mar 28 Holy Communion & Lent Group 9.30am  
Pray for HBCT; Lyndon Methodist, St Thomas More RC,  
Sheldon Community Church, St Giles, Sheldon, St Nicholas,  
Elmdon, Herman Mar Thoma, St Mary's, Hobs Moat and the  
Redeemed Christian Church of God.**

**Mar 29 Pray for all children, especially those who are vulnerable.  
Cubs and Beavers who meet in our hall.**

**Mar 30 Pray for the Emergency Services' Police, Fire and Ambulance.**

**Mar 31 All Age Holy Communion 10.00am  
Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and other ministries within  
the Church.**

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the Church.**



**If you have items, subjects or topics for inclusion in St. Mary's Monthly  
Prayer Diary, please send them by Email: [stmaryshobsmoat@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryshobsmoat@gmail.com)**

# What's on at Hobs Moat Library in January & February

## **Hobs Moat Striders & Strollers**

Dates for the next meetings are Friday 1st & 15th March & 12th & 26th April 2024 (10.15am for a 10.30am departure). These free walks in the Hobs Moat area are led by trained volunteers. No need to book, just turn up on the day. Refreshments are provided afterwards. The walk lasts up to an hour. The walk is suitable for everyone but if you are unsure, please come along and find out more details. The volunteers will be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

## **Reading Café**

Come along to our Reading Café for a comfortable, informal, and enjoyable morning. The café runs 10.30am-12.00pm. Dates for the next meeting are Friday 22nd March & 19th April 2024

## **Knit & Natter**

Dates for the next meeting are Tuesday 26th March & 30th April 2024. 10.30am- 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

## **Craft & Chat**

Drop in for a friendly chat, try some crafts and be creative. These sessions taking place every Tuesday from 10.30am - 1.00pm

## **Literary Litter Pickers**

Run by volunteers from within the community for the benefit of the community. Join the litter pickers for an hour with refreshments afterwards. Next meetings are Tuesday 12th March & 23rd April 2024. 10.00am - 11.00am. Meet at Hobs Moat Library.

## **A Trip Down Memory Lane**

Join us for a chat and revisit and reminisce about days gone by. Next meetings are Tuesday 26th March & 23rd April 2024 2.15pm - 3.15pm.

## **Family History Explorers**

Using Ancestry and Find My Past volunteers are on hand to help you trace family members. The group meets fortnightly. Takes place every other Saturday from 10.00am - 12.00pm. Please enquire at the library for dates.

## **Little Hobbits**

Stories, rhymes and colouring for under 5's. Every Thursday 10.15am - 10.45pm (Term Time Only). Booking essential



## Animal Antics

Animal stories and colouring for 2.5 years plus. Dates for the next meeting are Tuesday 5th March 2024 from 10.15am - 10.45am. Booking essential.

For further information please contact staff at:  
Hobs Moat Library, Ulleries Road, Solihull. B92 8EB Tel: 0121 743 4592



## The Moat Players

We hope that you enjoyed our performance of 'Trouble 07 - Licenced to Panto', which we performed to 4 great audiences over 3 days, and were also lucky to welcome Andrew Yates, the author of the pantomime, to one of our shows, who was very appreciative of our interpretation of his script.

We have already started rehearsing for our next show, entitled 'Jukebox Jumble'. As the title suggests, the show features classic songs, ranging from the 1940s up till the 1990s, so there will be something for everyone. Show dates are 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July, and tickets will be available shortly via our Ticket Hotline on 07563 625659.

We always welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining our friendly group, feel free to pop along to the Church Hall on a Thursday or Sunday evening, and meet us.

## Vintage & Craft Fayre

"You are all invited to Lily & Lolly's Vintage & Craft Fayre - free community event."

Saturday 16th March

12 - 4pm in St. Mary's Hall



There will be live music and entertainment with vintage singer Reza Farrell, a vintage tea party with Lily's Pop-up Tea Parlour, and a wonderful selection of vintage, craft & gift stalls from small local businesses. Free entry, everyone welcome, come along and join the fun!

# Age UK Solihull

## Age UK Solihull's upcoming events and activities



Local charity, Age UK Solihull, has several activities coming up which offer fun and laughs while raising funds to support older people in the Solihull borough.

### Charity Comedy Night

Friday 19th April 2024 @ 8.00pm

Shirley Royal British Legion Club, Parkgate, 186 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 3BQ



Get ready to giggle for a good cause! On Friday 19th April, there is a Charity Comedy Night at Shirley British Legion. Comedians include Steve Harris, Vinnie Townhill, Hannah Sylvester, and The Boys From The All Night Chemist. There will be a

licenced bar, parking is free and there will be a raffle on the night to help to raise even more funds to support local older people.

Tickets available at: [www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/comedy-night](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/comedy-night)

### Skydive for FREE!

Saturday 4th May 2024

Hinton Airfield, Northamptonshire

Take on the challenge of a lifetime with a tandem skydive in aid of Age UK Solihull. Raise a minimum of £500 and you can jump for free! You will be harnessed to a professional instructor and full training is given on the day. Find out more and book your place at: [www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/parachute-jump](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/parachute-jump)



All the funds raised by these activities will stay in Solihull to help Age UK Solihull continue to be there for older and vulnerable Solihull residents.

To find out more, email [events@ageuksolihull.org.uk](mailto:events@ageuksolihull.org.uk) call 0121 704 7842 or visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/fundraising](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/fundraising)



## Puzzle Corner

We hope that you enjoyed the first in the series of anniversary and birthday teasers in the last edition of The Moat, and the answers to them were of course:



1. Cesar Romero, 2. Wilkie Collins,
3. Carey Grant, 4. Vladimir Lenin,
5. Edvard Munch, 6. Harry Styles,
7. Woodrow Wilson, 8. Facebook,
9. Shirley Temple, 10. Nina Simone

How many did you get?

So, we carry on with our series of teasers for this year with the Big Anniversaries and Birthdays for March and April 2024.

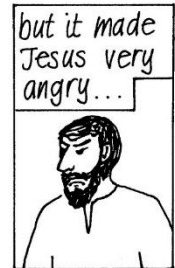
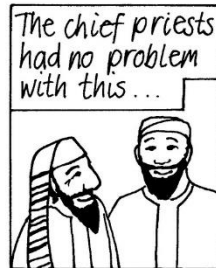
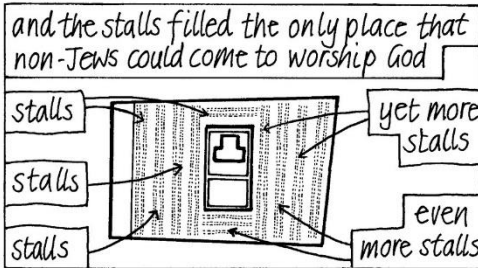
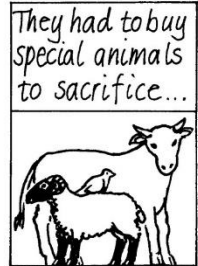
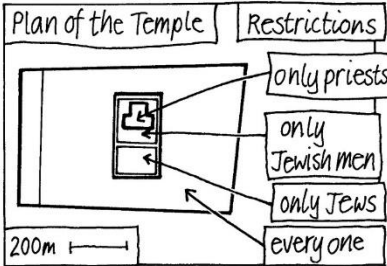
1. This Canadian pop superstar turns 30 on 1<sup>st</sup> March
2. On 4<sup>th</sup> March, this mum from the Home Alone movies celebrates her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday
3. The 9<sup>th</sup> March would have been this Russian cosmonaut's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday
4. On 26<sup>th</sup> March, this former 'Supreme' celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
5. The 31<sup>st</sup> March sees the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of one of Paris' top tourist attractions
6. The 6<sup>th</sup> April sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eurovision Song Contest final in Brighton that made this band a global name
7. This martial arts actor celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 7<sup>th</sup> April
8. The 15<sup>th</sup> April sees the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of this figure skater who won gold at the 1976 Winter Olympics
9. This former member of the Spice Girls and fashion designer celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> April
10. The 28<sup>th</sup> April is the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of this Spanish actress who is married to Javier Bardem

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19: 45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...



# PARISH DIARY



## St Mary's Diary for March

Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	LENT 3 All Age Morning Worship
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>		LENT 4 Parish Communion
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Morning Prayer & Lent Group
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	LENT 5 Morning Worship
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion & Lent Group
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	PALM SUNDAY Parish Communion
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	P.C.C.
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	MAUNDY THURSDAY Holy Communion & Lent Group
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am 7.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY Holy Communion Reflective Service at Elmdon Church
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	EASTER DAY All Age Holy Communion

## St Mary's Diary for April

Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	EASTER 2 Parish Communion

Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>	EASTER 3 Parish Communion
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>	EASTER 4 Morning Worship
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>	EASTER 5 Parish Communion

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	Jean Davies	☎ 705 6558	
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	<b>David Abrahams</b>		
	<b>Rev. Sue Shewring</b>		
	<b>Dave Smye</b>		
Magazine Editor	<b>Andy Knight</b>	✉ stmarysmag@ googlemail.com	



## The Moat, Next Issue...

Do you have an idea for an article for the next issue of The Moat?

Any articles for future editions of The Moat will be gratefully received and considered. They can either be put in the box at the back of Church, or emailed to [stmarysmag@googlemail.com](mailto:stmarysmag@googlemail.com).

The final date for submissions of articles for the combined March & April edition of The Moat is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



STEPHEN & PHILIP  
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