

The Moat

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM

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



July/August 2024

Price : 50p

St Mary's Church, Hobs Moat

Vicar – Rev. Bekah Clark

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Churchwardens

Vacant



Vacant



Pastoral Ministry Team

TBC



Worship on Sundays

9:30 am : Parish Communion or All Age Worship

Midweek Worship

Every Thursday - 9:30 am : REFRESH - Time Together With God

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

Any future articles can be emailed to: stmarysmag@googlemail.com

Website: www.stmaryschurchhobsmoat.org



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Focal Point...

On Friday 26th July, the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games will take place and I am looking forward to enjoying the variety of different sports which an event like the Olympics brings to our TV screens. I'm particularly interested to see some break dancing, which is being included in the Olympics for the first time.



Tears are often shed at the Olympics - sometimes tears of joy and sometimes tears of disappointment. The athletes have spent hours training and preparing themselves, physically and mentally, but only one person or team can win the gold medal. In some sports, speed matters, but the athletes mustn't be so fast that they make costly mistakes, which result in an increased time, penalties, or worse, disqualification.

In a number of places the Bible describes the Christian life as being like a race. In his letter to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul writes, 'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.' (1 Corinthians 9.24) Christians are to live their lives for Jesus with the same determination as an athlete going for gold.

In a world full of distractions - everything from our phones to worrying about what other people think of us - Christians are called to put Jesus first in all things, knowing there is nothing better than a relationship with Jesus. If we find our identity in our achievements, when things don't work out, we can be left wondering who we are or questioning our worth. If we put our trust in Jesus, we are loved and have value, not because of anything we've done or achieved, or will do or will achieve, but because of what Jesus has done for us.

It is 100 years since Eric Liddell famously won gold in the 400m at the 1924 Paris Olympics, despite this not being Eric's preferred event. The heats for the 100m fell on a Sunday and, for Eric, Sunday was the Lord's day - he would not compete on a Sunday. Instead, Eric competed in the 400m, which took place on a weekday, and he won. The film Chariots of Fire is based on this true story. Eric believed his running ability was a gift from God and when he ran, he ran for God, delighting in the gift God had given him.

As we enjoy a summer of sport, I wonder if we might reflect on our purpose in life, the race we're each running, and ask the question: what are we running for?

Many things don't deliver on their promises, but God does - the invitation of the Christian faith is the invitation to a loving relationship with Jesus that will last for eternity. This really is the best prize.

Every blessing,

Bekah



Thought for July

I must be willing to give up what I am in order to become what I will be.

Albert Einstein



Thought for August

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

Henry David Thoreau





refresh
TIME TOGETHER WITH GOD

sometimes a simple prayer time
sometimes a Bible discussion
sometimes Holy Communion
always time with God and each other

no need to let us know you're coming - just turn up

THURSDAYS AT 9.30AM
ST MARY'S HOBS MOAT

email: stmaryshobsmoat@gmail.com



St Mary's Market and Car Boot Sale

Our next St. Mary's Market and Car Boot Sales of 2024 will take place on the church car park on Saturday 20th July and 17th August. They are 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.

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The Moat Players

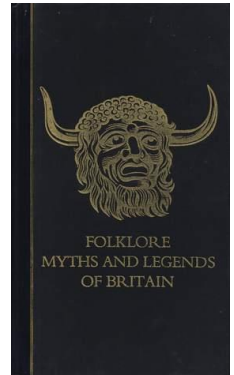
There are still a few tickets available for 'Jukebox Jumble' which takes place at 7.30 pm on 4th, 5th & 6th July. It is a look back on some of the classic songs of the 1940s through to the 1990s, so there will be something to get everyone's toes tapping. Tickets are available by calling the Ticket Hotline on 07563

625659. We will then be breaking for the summer, and holding our AGM on Thursday 18th July at 7.45pm.

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.

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 July and August.



Swan Upping

The census of swans takes place annually during July on the River Thames in a ceremony known as Swan Upping. Swans are counted and marked on a 70 mile, five day journey up the River Thames.

St, Swithen's Day

St. Swithen's Day is 15th July, a day on which people watch the weather for tradition says that whatever the weather is like on St. Swithin's Day, it will continue so for the next forty days.

St Swithin's Day, if thou dost rain, For forty days it will remain.

St Swithin's Day. if thou be fair, For forty days 'twill rain nae mair'

Grotto Day

25th July is St James' Day (Also known as Grotto Day). Children used to make grottoes and caves and decorate them with sea shells because the scallop shell is supposed to be the emblem of St. James.

The grottoes were placed outside the homes and the children would sit by them and say:

*Please remember the Grotto. It's only once a year.
Father's gone to sea. Mother's gone to bring him back,
So please remember me.*

Whitstable Oyster Festival

The English Oyster season officially begins on St James' Day. Whitstable Bay, on the north Kent coast, is famous for its oysters. It has been associated with oysters for hundreds of years. An old Kentish tradition says that Julius Caesar was drawn to Britain by the Whitstable oysters. On St. James's Day the locals hold an annual oyster festival, an event dating back to at least the early 19th century, when it was the custom for fishers and dredgers to celebrate with an annual ceremony of thanksgiving.



Lammas Day

1st August is Lammas Day, and was Thanksgiving time (Harvest time) in Britain. The name comes from an Anglo-Saxon word Hlafmaesse which means Loaf Mass. The festival of Lammas marks the beginning of the harvest, when people go to church to give thanks for the first corn to be cut.

This celebration predates our Christian harvest festival.

On Lammas Day farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church. They were then used as the Communion bread during a special mass thanking God for the harvest. The custom ended when Henry Lammas was also the time for farmers to give their farm workers a present of a pair of gloves. In Exeter, a large white glove was put on the end of a long pole which was decorated with flowers and held on high to let people know that the merriment of Lammas Fair was beginning.

Edinburgh Festival in Scotland

Dating from 1947, the Edinburgh Festival is primarily a celebration of

the performing arts, with live concerts, plays, ballets, operas and other shows.

Royal National Eisteddfod in Wales

The Eisteddfod is an older tradition, revived in the 19th century. It originated as a medieval gathering of bards and minstrels, attended by people across Wales, who competed for the prized chair at the noble's table. Held during the first week of August, it celebrates Welsh arts and culture.

Notting Hill Carnival

The carnival is held on the Summer Bank Holiday, the last Monday in August. It features a colourful procession, elaborate and extravagant costumes, and the music of many steel bands. The carnival originated in the mid 1960s as a way of celebrating and maintaining the cultural traditions of the Caribbean immigrants who live in and around the Notting Hill area.

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.

JULY 2024

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

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

Jul 3 Pray for Daylesford Rd., Eastbury Dr., Blaythorn Ave.
For those who dust and clean St Mary's Church.

Jul 4 Refresh – Holy Communion 9.30am
Pray for Dallimore Close, Norbury Grove, Cloudsley Grove
For all who are in employment & those unemployed.

- Jul 5** For all organisations who use our Hall each week.
Pray for Ulleries Rd., Burford Close, Colesbourne Rd.
- Jul 6** Pray for Elkstone Close, Brackleys Way & Moordown Ave.
For those who are housebound especially Church members.
- Jul 7** All Age Morning Worship 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.
- Jul 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.
- Jul 9** Pray for Castle Lane, Greyfort Cres., & Arundel Cres.
For our servers and those who assist at Communion.
- Jul 10** Pray for Dene Court Rd., Knightsbridge Rd., The Dell
For all who have disabilities which restrict their lives.
- Jul 11** Refresh – Morning Prayer 9.30am
Pray for Onslow Cres., Summerfield Rd., Kimberley Rd.
For all who contribute to the music for our worship.
- Jul 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.
- Jul 13** Pray for Berwood Grove, Rodney Rd., Dursley Close
For those who prepare “The Moat” Parish Magazine
Editor, Printers, Assembly Team, Distributors and Readers
- Jul 14** Parish Communion 9.30am
Pray for Dovehouse Lane, Dovecote Close, Redfern Close
For the elderly & their pets who help them.
- Jul 15** Pray for Castle Close, Faulkner Rd., Trinity Close
For Shop keepers and their assistants.
For the Pastoral Team who visit the sick.

- Jul 16 Pray for Cranhill Close & Rodney Close**
For those who wash and clean the altar linen at St Mary's.
- Jul 17 Pray for Old Lode Lane, Jillcot Rd., Jeremy Grove**
For those who beautify St Mary's Church with flowers.
- Jul 18 Refresh – Holy Communion 9.30am**
Pray for Ebrington Ave., Glenside Av., Windsor Drive.
For all Doctors & Specialists & all who care for the sick and lonely.
- Jul 19 Pray for Merevale Rd., Odensil Green, Tanhouse Farm Rd.**
For all Doctors & Staff at Hobs Moat Medical Centre and Meadowside Surgery.
- Jul 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.
- Jul 21 Morning Worship 9.30am**
Pray for Arlescote Rd., Frankton Close, Leafield Rd.
For God's blessing on all mothers, fathers, single parents and grandparents.
- Jul 22 Pray for Charingworth Rd, Leam Cresc., Lammas Close.**
For those who serve coffee after our 10am services.
- Jul 23 Pray for Evenlode Close, Lode Lane, Hillhampton Close.**
For those who are sick at home and in hospital.
For Lyndon Residents Association.
- Jul 24 Pray for Kelham Place, Kempsey Close, Farmstead Rd.**
For those who advertise in 'The Moat' Parish magazine.
- Jul 25 Refresh – Morning Prayer 9.30am**
Pray for St Mary's officials – Marina our PCC secretary, Vernon our Treasurer.
Pray for Highcroft Close, Norgrave Rd. Woodhall Croft.

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

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

**Jul 28 Parish Communion 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.**

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

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

**Jul 31 Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and other ministries within
the Church.**

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

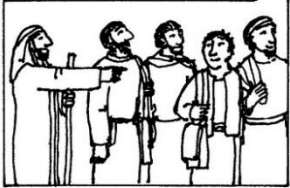
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Numbers chapters 13 and 14

God had rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to the border of the land He had promised them - Canaan. But it was not empty..

12 young leaders were chosen to check Canaan out.



They went north to where Abraham had been buried..



and they returned 40 days later with fruit, and their report...



10 said "The people there are like giants! We can't beat them."



Caleb and Joshua said..



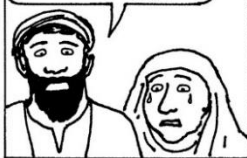
But our God is bigger than they are. We can win!

But the people said

No! We should have died in the desert!

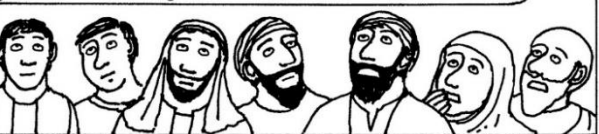


We'll choose a new leader to take us back to Egypt.



But God said..

I have had enough of you not trusting Me. You will wander in the desert for 40 years before your children return here.



We were wrong to complain. Let's go into Canaan!



Don't attack! God will not help you win.



Not listening!

And the Canaanites chased them out of the country.



Run away!

What's on at Hobs Moat Library in July & August

Solihull Adult Autism & Disabled Group

A chance to meet and socialise with other people who have autism or are on the spectrum.

Dates for next meetings are 1st July and 5th August 2024. 2.15pm - 3.30pm

Hobs Moat Striders & Strollers

Dates for the next meetings are Friday 5th & 19th July and 2nd, 16th & 30th August 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 meetings are Friday 12th July & 9th August 2024

Knit & Natter

Dates for the next meeting are Tuesday 30th July & 27th August 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 meeting is Tuesday 16th July 2024. 10.00am - 11.00am. Meet at Hobs Moat Library.

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. Date for the next meeting is Tuesday 2nd July 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



Puzzle Corner

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



1. Roger Bannister, 2. Habitat, 3. George Lucas, 4. Patti LaBelle, 5. Gladys Knight, 6. D Day Landings, 7. Nineteen Eighty Four, 8. Courteney Cox, 9. Civil Rights Act, 10. Khloe Kardashian

How many did you get?

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

1. This famous Italian fashion designer celebrates his 90th birthday on 11th July.
2. This former professional and Welsh international rugby player celebrates his 50th birthday on 25th July.
3. This 'Congenial' award winning actress celebrates her 60th birthday on 26th July.
4. This drummer with Queen celebrates his 75th birthday on 26th July.

5. The 27th July marks the 75th anniversary of this aircraft's maiden flight, which was the world's first commercial jet airliner.
6. The 1st August is the 250th anniversary of Joseph Priestley discovering this vital gas, although he did not recognise it as an element.
7. The 7th August is the 100th anniversary of the birth of this famous BBC newsreader
8. Dire Straits singer and guitarist celebrates his 75th Birthday on 12th August.
9. The 13th August is the 125th anniversary of the birth of this film director, who was known as the 'master of suspense'.
10. This director of Titanic and Avatar celebrates his 70th birthday on 16th August.



Age UK Solihull

Local charity, Age UK Solihull, has expanded its offering of clubs and activities for older people in Solihull.

Designed to combat loneliness and promote wellbeing among older Solihull residents, two new weekly lunch clubs and a monthly coffee afternoon have recently begun.

The Land Rover Social Club takes place every Tuesday from 12-3pm at Jaguar Land Rover Sports and Social Club, Solihull B92 9LN.

The Hobs Meadow Lunch Club takes place every Thursday from 12-3pm at Hobs Meadow pub on Ulleries Road, Solihull B92 8ED.

The two lunch clubs add to Age UK Solihull's existing weekly clubs at the Marston Green Tavern every Tuesday, Moseley Cricket Club in Shirley every Wednesday, and the Red Lion in Knowle every Thursday. These three clubs all have waiting lists, but the new clubs have plenty of spaces for new members.

The clubs are for older residents of the Solihull borough, and priority is given to those who live alone with no family or other support nearby. The lunch clubs cost £8-10 which includes a hot meal, hot drinks and entertainment and activities. The Wednesday Afternoon

Club costs £3 which includes hot drinks, cake, activities and monthly entertainment.

Age UK Solihull has also launched a monthly get-together called “Welcome Wednesdays”, which takes place on the last Wednesday of every month from 2-3.30pm at Eastcote Park Care Home in Barston, Solihull. The charity suggests a voluntary donation of £3 to attend, and hot drinks and cake are provided by Eastcote Park. This is a more informal event where members are welcome to drop in with no commitment to attending every month.

Age UK Solihull’s Clubs and Activities Coordinator, Emma Hunter, says, “We are thrilled to have launched these new activities which offer the chance for older Solihull residents to get out and socialise, meeting local people and enjoying entertainment and activities in a warm and welcoming environment. Our aim is to combat social isolation and these new clubs and events are integral to achieving that goal.”

For those interested in joining any of Age UK Solihull’s clubs or events, please contact Emma Hunter on 07442 859702, email activities@ageuksolihull.org.uk or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/activities-and-events/regular-activities

PARISH DIARY



St Mary’s Diary for July

Wednesday	3 rd	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	4 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Holy Communion
Sunday	7 th	9.30	TRINITY 6 All Age Morning Worship
Wednesday	10 th	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	11 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Morning Prayer
Sunday	14 th	9.30 am	TRINITY 7 Parish Communion
Wednesday	17 th	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter

Thursday	18 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Holy Communion
Saturday	20 th	9.00 am	St. Mary's Market & Car Boot Sale
Sunday	21 st	9.30 am	TRINITY 8 Morning Worship
Wednesday	24 th	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	25 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Morning Prayer
Sunday	28 th	9.30 am	TRINITY 9 Parish Communion
Wednesday	31 st	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter

St Mary's Diary for August

Thursday	1 st	9.30 am	Refresh - Holy Communion
Sunday	4 th	9.30 am	TRINITY 10 All Age Morning Worship
Wednesday	7 th	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	8 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Morning Prayer
Sunday	11 th	9.30 am	TRINITY 11 Parish Communion
Wednesday	14 th	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	15 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Holy Communion
Saturday	17 th	9.00 am	St. Mary's Market & Car Boot Sale
Sunday	18 th	9.30 am	TRINITY 12 Parish Communion
Wednesday	21 st	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	22 nd	9.30 am	Refresh - Morning Prayer
Sunday	25 th	10.30 am	TRINITY 13 Morning Worship
Wednesday	28 th	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday	29 th	9.30 am	Refresh - Holy Communion

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Church Wardens	Vacant	☎ ☎
PCC Secretary	Marina Downing	☎ 779 6866
PCC Treasurer	Vernon Ford	☎ 707 3583
St Mary's Parochial Church Council	Juanita Watson	☎ 706 3819
	Greg Dodd	☎ 706 4859
	Andy Knight	☎ 07570 122977
	Janet Bott	☎ 706 6899
	David Abrahams	
	Dave Smye	
	Jan Turner	
Magazine Editor	Andy Knight	✉ 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.

The final date for submissions of articles for the combined September & October edition of The Moat is Monday 12th August 2024.



STEPHEN & PHILIP
PAINTER

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