



A MARTYR'S MESSAGE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH - NEW MILLS

Welcome!

The people of the church care for these beautiful buildings on behalf of all local people, fundraising extensively and receiving no government help. We want to ensure that the church is here to serve many generations into the future, just as it has been here in the past.

We are part of the Church of England, and worship God together in the Catholic Tradition where a spirit of joy predominates. We are what the Diocese of Derby refers to as a "Mission and Ministry Area", and the whole of the Parish is where we are called to work for God engaging in both mission and ministry.

New Mills itself is a lively and interesting town on the edge of Derbyshire's Peak District where our agricultural and industrial past, present and future meet.

With a lot of people now using social media to keep up to date with goings on, we thought it was important to ensure that people that do not have access to social media or the web are still kept up to date with things happening at St. George's Parish Church.

We aim to publish this magazine on a quarterly basis so please keep us in mind and if you have interesting stories that you would like to share with us or maybe you would like to advertise your business or organisation. If so, please do get in touch with us by emailing: publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk or call: (01663) 749323.



Welcome to this first issue of *A Martyr's Message*. This quarterly magazine is free of charge and will be available in church and at various venues across the town. We aim to fill this magazine with as much information about our church and parish life as possible and to spread the information across the local community and beyond!

St. George's Church is proud to be the Parish Church of New Mills. Many local people speak of the warm welcome they receive for baptisms and weddings, and many families have loved ones buried in our churchyard.

The Church is packed with local residents, and also some who travel a great distance, for festivals and special occasions. Our regular congregation is a warm and welcoming group of people who strive to be the people of God in this place, and they belong to many organisations in and around the church and town.

We are justly proud of our Choir and Organist, they bring beautiful and uplifting music to our worship. Local schoolchildren find us a welcome resource for their R.E. lessons, and we thoroughly enjoy them in church for their assemblies, concerts and presentations. We also have excellent links with St George's Primary School, our Church primary school.

There is an expanding programme of activities for members of the community.



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

"Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the people of New Mills"

New Mills gets a new Vicar - Finally!



On Thursday 6th February 2020 at a special service in church, Fr. Owain Mitchell was Inducted, Instituted and Installed as Vicar of New Mills. The service was attended by many from the local community including the Chair of New Mills Town Council Mr Ray Atkins.

It was a wonderful service conducted by The Right Revd. Libby Lane, Bishop of Derby, The Venerable Carol Coslett, The Archdeacon of Chesterfield and the Revd. Colin Pearson, The Area Dean.

During the service Fr. Owain swore Oaths of Allegiance to the Queen, Canonical Obedience and Declaration of Assent. He was then presented with the keys to the church, a copy of the Electoral Roll and a copy of the Parish Boundary map.

We welcome Fr. Owain and his wife Claire to the parish of New Mills and we pray for them as they start their new life and ministry here.

We would like to thank Sean Whewell from *Visit New Mills* for supplying festoon lighting to light the driveway from the Parish Hall to the church and to all who were involved in the catering and preparations of this special service.

We would also like to thank our two Churchwardens, Jan Pool and Richard Hole who have worked extremely hard during the two year vacancy, ensuring the day to day running of the church and the tireless task of finding Priests for our weekly services, funerals and baptisms.

Introducing our Vicar.

BY FR. OWAIN MITCHELL

I grew up in the village of Patrington in the East Riding of Yorkshire, just a few miles from Spurn Point, where I attended primary school, and spent much of my spare time either out playing with friends or sitting in the church, being with God. My family worshipped at the Parish Church of Saint Patrick's, after whom the village is named, where I was brought up on a diet of good liturgy and the encouragement of our successive Rectors. Expressing a sense of vocation at the age of six, I was invited to serve as Acolyte, Crucifer, Server, Lector, Chalice Bearer and Intercessor through my childhood and into adulthood.

I attended Withernsea High School, and the family moved to Withernsea, but continued worshipping in Patrington. I played Rugby for the school and the Town, and joined the Army Cadets. However, God and His Church were still my first love.



Because of my still young age, I was encouraged to spend a few years working and gaining some life experience, and so I joined a local Amusement company where I worked in various departments, but spent most of my time as the Collections Manager, emptying, banking and accounting for the takings of our machines.

Having successfully attended a selection conference, I was accepted to train for the priesthood, training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield from 1999 to 2002.

In 2002 I was made Deacon in York Minster by the Archbishop of York, and the following year I was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Hull in the group of Parishes in which I served my title, in and around Bridlington.

Following my Curacy, I moved to Lincolnshire, serving from 2005 as Vicar of the United Benefice of Brigg, Wrawby and Cadney-cum-Howsham. In December 2010, the Benefices of Bonby and Worlaby joined the group. I resigned my living there on 5th February, having been in post for fifteen years, and the following day I was made Vicar of Saint George's.

Claire and I married in Saint John's, Brigg in 2009. I have two daughters – Rebecca (25 years old) and Jessica (22 years old) from my previous marriage, and Claire has a son, Sam (19 years old) from her previous marriage.

I have undergraduate degrees in Contemporary Studies (Policy Studies and Criminology) from the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside and in Theology and Pastoral Studies from the University of Leeds, and a postgraduate degree in Theological Reflection and Ministry from the University of Lincoln.

To paraphrase Father Dougal in Father Ted, 'I love being a priest'. I am energised by helping people to grow as disciples and ministers of God, and by building relationships and working with the wider community. Beyond ministry, I enjoy reading, watching most forms of motor sport, particularly Touring Car and Endurance racing, and motorcycle racing. I also like to relax by watching films, box sets or listening to classic radio comedies, such as The Goons, The Navy Lark and Round the Horne, or getting out on my motorbike.

The choir is recruiting

THE PARISH CHURCH CHOIR

Our Parish Church Choir is looking to recruit Sopranos. The choir is an important part of the life here at St. George's as it leads the sung and said parts of the services.

The Choir prides itself in performing a high standard of choral music. Under the direction of Tim Hawkins our Choir Director and Organist, choristers get a high level of musical training all free of charge!

Many of our choristers find the musical and vocal training that they receive from the choir extremely useful in other activities in which they are involved such as; amateur dramatics, musical instrument practice, vocal and instrumental performances and school or college musical activities.



The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in church and also sings at the Sunday Morning Service which starts at 10.00am and finishes at approx. 11.15am. A rehearsal schedule is published frequently.

Being part of the choir is an excellent way of socialising, learning a new hobby and the feeling of being part of something very special.

Members are welcomed into the church choir regardless of religious background. However, since their primary job is to lead the musical and spoken parts of the church's liturgies, choir members must be willing to lead worship in those ways.

All ages are welcome to join from 7 years and upwards.

Membership of the church choir does involve a great deal of commitment, so you must be prepared to commit yourselves for both choir rehearsals and services. Just like a football team, it depends on a good deal of team work.

If you would like to join the choir please get in touch with us:

Email: choir@newmillschurch.co.uk

Call: (01663) 746226

An Evening Liturgy for Candlemas

SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2020



LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT
DEPART IN PEACE.

On the evening of Sunday 2nd February 2020. Our church choir led a special evening liturgy to commemorate the feast of Candlemas - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The church was plunged in to candlelight as the choir processed down the nave of the church with candles. Tom Spires, our Lay Reader officiated and there were readings and prayers on the theme. The choir sang a 'Responsory' by Philip Stopford, the anthem 'Heavenly Light' by A. Kopylow. Tim Hawkins, our Organist played 'Prelude on Old 120th' by Healey Willan. It was a beautiful, atmospheric and meditative service thanks to the Choir, Tim Hawkins, our Choir Director and Organist and Mair Cornforth, our Assistant Organist.

Easter Simnel Cake



Ingredients

100g/4oz glacé cherries
225g/8oz butter, softened
225g/8oz light muscovado sugar
4 large eggs
225g/8oz self-raising flour
225g/8oz sultanas
100g/4oz currants
50g/2oz chopped candied peel
2 lemons, grated zest only
2 tsp ground mixed spice

For the filling and topping

450g/1lb marzipan
1-2 tbs apricot jam, warmed

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 150C/280F/Gas 2. Grease and line a 20cm/ 8in cake tin.
2. Cut the cherries into quarters, put in a sieve and rinse under running water. Drain well then dry thoroughly on kitchen paper.
3. Place the cherries in a bowl with the butter, sugar, eggs, self-raising flour, sultanas, currants, candied peel, lemon zest and mixed spice and beat well until thoroughly mixed. Pour half the mixture into the prepared tin.
4. Take one-third of the marzipan and roll it out to a circle the size of the tin and then place on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface.
5. Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 2½ hours, or until well risen, evenly brown and firm to the touch. Cover with aluminium foil after one hour if the top is browning too quickly. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.
6. When the cake is cool, brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam and roll out half the remaining marzipan to fit the top. Press firmly on the top and crimp the edges to decorate. Mark a criss-cross pattern on the marzipan with a sharp knife. Form the remaining marzipan into 11 balls.
7. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the marzipan balls around the edge of the cake. Brush the tops of the balls with beaten egg and then carefully place the cake under a hot grill until the top is lightly toasted.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.



Weddings.



We love a good wedding and St. George's Church offers a beautiful setting and a spiritual place for your special day while receiving God's blessing on your relationship.

If you live in the parish of New Mills, you are entitled to get married at St. George's Parish Church. However, that does not restrict anyone else who doesn't live in the parish from getting married here as long as you have a qualifying connection with parish (for example, you used to live or worship at St. George's, your parents or grandparents were married here, or you have regularly attended worship here for at least six months).

If you are interested in sharing your special day with us, please get in touch with Fr. Owain who will be more than happy to help and guide you. Call: (01663) 743225



Lent Discussion Group.

TUESDAYS 10.30 TO 11.30AM | THE VICARAGE

Reflecting on the season of Lent as we explore previous Sunday's Gospel

3rd March – Lent 1: Matt 4:1-11

10th March – Lent 2: John 3:1-17

17th March – Lent 3: John 4:5-42

24th March – Lent 4: John ch. 9

31st March – Lent 5: John 11:1-45

7th April – Palm Sunday: Matt 27:11-54

Thinking of Baptism.



Baptism is God's free gift. But like every gift, it is much better if it's one you really want. In baptism, parents and godparents have to make some important and sacred promises. In the baptism service, the child is baptised on the understanding that they will be brought up on the Christian faith.

Baptism is an exciting new beginning for your child and you and everyone here at St. Georges are here to support and encourage you in the family of God.

If you would like to know more about Baptism you can call Fr. Owain on (01663) 743225



10.00am
in the Parish Hall every
third Sunday of the
month.

Luncheon Club.

A LUNCH AND SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY ON FRIDAYS IN TERM TIME

The Luncheon Club meets in the Parish Hall on Fridays in Term time for elderly people who struggle to get out of their homes. We meet at 10am before celebrating Holy Communion at 11am which is then followed by a meal together.

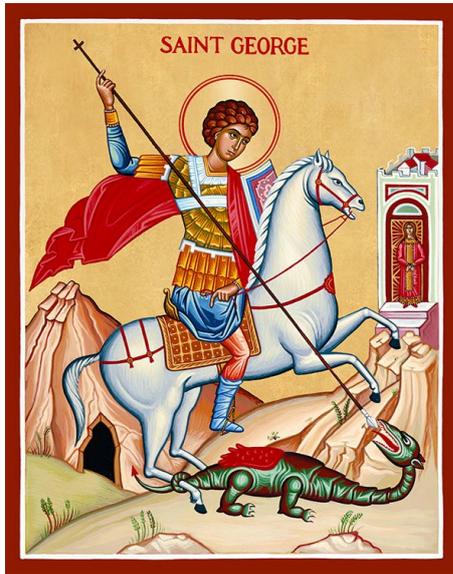
If you or you know anyone who would benefit in coming along to our Luncheon Club please get in touch. We can organise transport for you.

Call Barbara Lord on: (01663) 743905

St. George's Day

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL | 7.00PM | IN CHURCH

Our Patronal Festival will be celebrated with a special Parish Eucharist on **Thursday 23rd April** at **7.00pm** in church.



Ascension Day

THURSDAY 21ST MAY | 7.00PM | IN CHURCH

We will be celebrating Ascension Day on Thursday 21st May with a special Parish Eucharist at 7.00pm.



Stations of the Cross

FRIDAY EVENINGS | 6 P.M | IN CHURCH

(28th February, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March
and 3rd April)

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

Lent, Holy Week & Easter

FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Lent and Easter are an important part of the Christian calendar.

The period of Lent lasts for forty days (not including Sundays). It is a time when Christians reflect and prepare for the celebrations of Easter. Some people fast, eat frugally or give up treats following the example of Jesus, who fasted for forty days in the wilderness.

People also give to charity, set aside time to study the Bible and meet with other Christians to reflect on Jesus' life and prepare for the events of Easter.

A Prayer for Lent

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.



Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 22nd February) is the first day of Lent. Ashes made from palm crosses are blessed and are used to make crosses on people's foreheads. The custom dates back to the middle ages.

Ash Wednesday services set the tone for Lent, with sombre readings and hymns and a focus on penitence (saying sorry for and turning away from sin).

**"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."**

Holy Week is the name given to the week beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday.

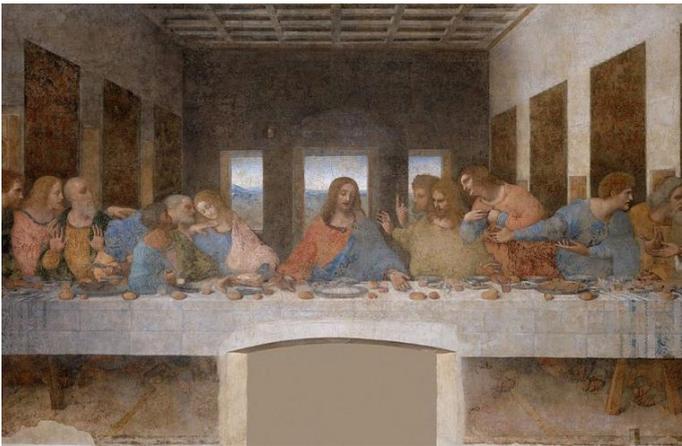
On **Palm Sunday** (Sunday 5th April) Jesus arrived in Jerusalem to crowds and cheers. His triumphant entry into Jerusalem has been celebrated on the Sunday before Easter since the first centuries of Christianity.

The crowds waved palm branches and covered his path with them. Churches remember this with crosses made from palm leaves and hold processions like the one that Jesus experienced - sometimes with a donkey, too!

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!"

John 12:12-13

Maundy Thursday (Thursday 9th April) is the day when we remember Jesus sharing the Last Supper with his disciples before his death.



Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Luke 22:19-20

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word *mandare* meaning to command. We remember Jesus' command: *'Love one another as I have loved you'*.

At the Last Supper Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Some churches recreate this act of service at special services and events. This is not only an important reminder of the nature of Jesus, who we serve, but also the kind of service we are meant to demonstrate in our love for one another.

Good Friday (Friday 10th April) is the day when Christians remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. It is a sombre day where churches meet, pray and reflect on the sacrifice Jesus willingly paid for all our sins.



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

On **Easter Sunday**, (Sunday 12th April) churches across England will celebrate because Jesus died for our sins and then rose again.



On the third day after being crucified, Jesus' tomb was found to be empty. He had risen from the dead. Life triumphs over death! The joy of resurrection is possible only because Christ endured death and conquered it.



LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 22nd March - Mothering Sunday
10.00am - Sung Parish Communion

Sunday 5th April - Palm Sunday
10.00am - Sung Parish Communion and
Procession of Palms.

Thursday 9th April - Maundy Thursday
7.00pm - Sung Parish Communion with
stripping of the altars and vigil till 9pm.

Friday 10th April - Good Friday
2.00pm - Good Friday Liturgy with music,
prayers and readings.

Sunday 12th April - Easter Day
10.00am - Easter Day Celebration
Sung Parish Communion.



- WEEKLY SERVICES -

Wednesdays

9.15am - Said Holy Communion
in the Lady Chapel

Fridays

10.00am - Luncheon Club
in the Parish Hall

Sundays

8.00am - Said Holy Communion
in the Lady Chapel

10.00am - Sung Parish Holy
Communion

10.00am - Godly Play - Every 3rd Sunday
in the Parish Hall

6.30pm - Evening Prayer

A warm welcome always awaits you at St. George's



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If you would like to support us by advertising in our next issue (June 2020), or if you have a story you would like to share with us, then please get in touch:

publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk or call: **(01663) 749323**

All information in this magazine was correct at the time of going to print.

The Deadline for the next issue of 'A Martyr's Message' is Friday 22nd May 2020

This magazine is also available to download and view on our website.