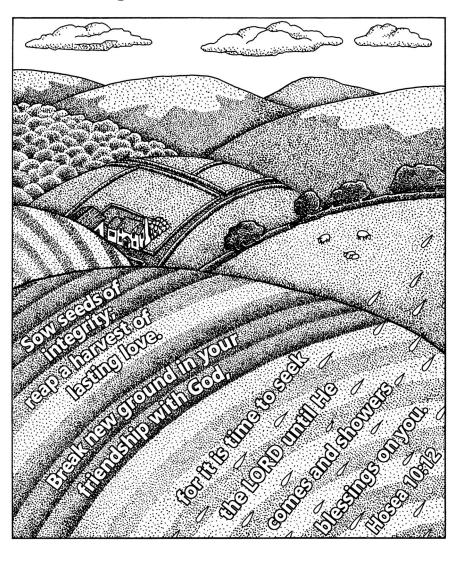
October 2021 30p Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter





Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Rob Walker (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk

Fr Alistair Writes:

October is, of course, the season of harvest festivals.

Harvest is, for those who farm grain, long over, and soon winter crops will be sown... a sign of how agriculture has changed since the nineteenth century when harvest festival was invented, in part as a means of stopping agricultural labourers getting drunk.

You might pick up from this that I'm not a fan of harvest festivals as they are now kept; I might ask how many in Slough this year have ploughed a field and scattered. My own preference would be to keep the real harvest festival, Lammas, at the beginning of August, which focussed not on the end of the harvest but the beginning, as the new grain is turned to bread, and the bread in turn turned into the Body of Christ. Nonetheless harvest festival, even kept at the wrong time in a parish which is not notable for its swathes of agricultural land, may serve some purpose.

In the first instance it is an opportunity to collect for our Foodbank. I first came across foodbanks in America; alongside my day job I was assisting at a Manhattan parish, which had an active food bank, and reflected that such immense wealth (the parish was based around Madison Avenue) should dwell so strangely in proximity with such poverty, and reflected that perhaps we did things a bit better in the UK. Subsequent years have given me cause to reflect again.

But this may also give us cause to reflect on the fragility of creation, as well as our dependence on it, and our role in preserving it. Yes, I am once more turning to the matter of climate justice, as raised in this year's Lent groups. The Diocese has now picked up on this... though rather than cutting down on the amount of unnecessary travel, or even telling us how easy it is to get to Church House by public transport (it is... I've done it) they are giving us the usual advice about not leaving lights on and turning down the heating. However, alongside these we have the more interesting suggestion of eating seasonal and home-grown produce. Which leads me back to harvest. By "home-grown" what is means is UK grown. But even better if we can have an allotment, or use part of our garden for veg. This too may make us aware of our dependence on creation... as well as effectively caring for it, and as well as reducing our carbon emission.

OCTOBER SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

9.30am 11.00am	Harvest Festival (SP) Harvest Festival led by Revd Linda Hillier, followed by booked Church Lunch (SL)
9.30am	Harvest Festival (SM)
11.00am	Memorial Service for Peter Brown (SL)
10.00am	Bible Sunday / Benjamin Lane - Joint Parish Eucharist (SL)
11.00am	Memorial Service for John Gregory (SL)
11.00am	Eucharist, including thanksgiving for the life of Bob Chapman (SL)
	11.00am 9.30am 11.00am 10.00am

November Dates for your Diary:

Sat 13th TBC St Peter's Christmas Fair (SP)

Sat 20th 11.00am Santa's Christmas Special (until 2.30pm) (SL)

St Mary's News

Life is slowly returning to St Mary's and over the last couple of weeks it has been so encouraging to see the return of some familiar faces who we have not seen for many months. As we all grow more confident in resuming some normality in our lives we hope to be able to welcome back more old friends and also welcome new friends to our worship.

Today it was particularly joyful to see the return of music and hymns to our service.

Unfortunately there has been an increase in anti-social activity in St Mary's Churchyard in the last few months and whilst Derek and I are trying to work closely with the police and outreach team from Slough Borough Council it remains a big problem. We are very grateful to Community Payback team who come to us on alternate Fridays for their efforts in clearing the litter whilst still working on gardening duties

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.

What you need

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

St Laurence's News

September has proved very fruitful for our FUNdraising team and pledged giving to date has stood up well, but we are still heading for a deficit this year. If you are able to help at any events, please sign up in church. Santa's Christmas Special will take place on Saturday 20th November from 11.00am to 2.30pm and we should make the most of this opportunity to raise funds and reach out into our community, so please do help if you can.

We will celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 3rd October and the service will be followed by church lunch. Book for the lunch in church or by calling 01753 532425. See pages 12 and 13 for Slough Foodbank requirements.

Bible Sunday will be celebrated at a Joint Parish Eucharist at 10.00am on 24th October, which will include the Benjamin Lane Sermon.

Dave

Bible Sunday – 24th October

This special Sunday in the church's calendar is an opportunity to stop and consider the enormous blessing that the Bible has brought to people down the centuries. Without it, we would know nothing about God our Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit. It is God-breathed – full of His love and guidance to us. World history would have been radically different without it.

Whether or not you are able to get to church on 24th October, Bible Society has some excellent resources on Bible Sunday at: https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-sunday/



St Laurence's Preserves

If you would like to order some St Laurence's jam, marmalade, chutney or other item from the preserves stall, please call Allan on 01753 532425 and he will arrange collection or delivery in line with current Covid-19 regulations.

St Peter's News

Our fundraisers have been out and about at various events and have raised some money.

We will celebrate our Harvest Festival on 3rd October.

Margaret

How should we read the Bible?

There are three things to bear in mind when you pick up your Bible:

First, approach it expectantly. The Bible is not just another book – it is the Word of God, given to us by God to help us and instruct us. The Psalmist declared, 'Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' (Psalm 119:105). Therefore, as you open your Bible, pray that the Holy Spirit (who inspired the writers of the Bible) will illumine its meaning to you. Read it carefully, not just hurrying through it as you would a novel.

Secondly, read your Bible systematically. Aim to read about three chapters a day: begin at Genesis and work through the Old Testament. Begin in Matthew and work through the New Testament; begin in Psalms and work through Psalms and Proverbs. Simply continue these three cycles, and it will ensure that your diet of Bible reading each day will be varied and include a bit of everything!

Finally, read your Bible obediently. Be ready to obey the truth that God has for you in its pages. God gave the Bible to us 'for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16), and the Bible can change our lives as we read it and obey its teachings every day.

The Benefice of Upton-cum-Chalvey

We are delighted to announce that, following interviews on 25th August, a new Team Rector has been appointed for the Upton-cum-Chalvey Benefice. The Revd Scott Lamb has served in parishes in Bexley, Hammersmith, West Holloway and East Ham and has also served as a Royal Navy Chaplain. He is presently Rector of the parish of Ste Marie du Castel and Vicar of St Matthew Cobo on the Island of Guernsey and is Safeguarding Officer for the Island.

Revd Lamb trained for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Before training for ordination, he studied Psychology at Edinburgh University and worked in the Civil Service.

He is a keen cyclist and is always trying to improve his French language skills. Scott is married to Elizabeth who is training to be a nurse, and they have two sons, who both work in London.

Scott will begin his new ministry here on Sunday 19th December at a Joint Parish Eucharist at St Mary's, and he and Elizabeth are looking forward to getting to know you all, as they begin this new chapter in their lives. Please pray for them as they prepare to join us.

Persecution of Christians set to rise in Afghanistan

As the Taliban tighten their grip on Afghanistan, Release International has warned that attacks on Christians are likely to rise across the region.

One church leader in Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members.

A Christian contact of one Release International partner describes the situation as 'dire.' Says 'Micah': "Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are. In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion."

The church in Afghanistan already faced sharp persecution, even before the Taliban advance. That church is invisible and must operate underground in this land where Muslims who change their faith are breaking the law and considered to have betrayed their communities.

To be exposed as a Christian is to risk being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or imprisonment. There have also been honour killings of Christians by their families.

One of the communities worst affected by the Taliban is the Shia Hazara minority, which has been especially responsive to the Christian message.

In May 2021, the Taliban bombed the Sayed Ul-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing at least 85, mainly schoolgirls. The previous year the Taliban staged a shooting at a maternity clinic, killing women, children, and babies.

It was the Pakistan Taliban who shot 15-year-old Malala Yousafzai for going to school and telling the world about it in a blog.

Thousands of Afghans, including Christians, are now seeking refuge in neighbouring Pakistan. But the Taliban are growing in influence there, too. Before the Afghan president fled, he accused Pakistan of permitting thousands of jihadi fighters to cross its border to support the Taliban.

Through its international network of missions, Release International is active in some 25 countries around the world, supporting pastors, Christian prisoners and their families.

'Wake up world!' - Bishop calls for action after climate report

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, has called for immediate action on climate change, following the publication of the major UN scientific report.

He said: "The message of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report is loud and clear: 'Wake up world!'

"It is time to stop playing political games and take action now. We are already seeing the effects of the climate emergency around the world - and it is the world's economically poorest people who are already suffering the most.

"So it is our moral duty, and a Christian calling to do all we can to try to turn the tide.

"At COP26 there will be an opportunity to act, our leaders must seize this moment and deliver real and impactful change for the future of God's creation. We don't have a spare Earth."

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person was once a sperm and an egg. Those two unique germ cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. One of the most important stages of this process is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity.

In this context, identity means what shape it takes, and which limbs or internal organs grow there: legs or arms, lungs or pancreas, and so on. The source of that physical identity is DNA: the networks of genes that are switched on or off in each segment of the body, making all the proteins that are needed to grow and develop in the right way. The master-genes that control the whole process are called homeobox, or Hox genes for short.

The most beautiful thing about the process of body patterning is the way it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a tidy way. The Hox genes are organised into several clusters on the chromosomes, in the order in which they are needed during development *and* the order in which they appear on the body.

As the embryo develops, the cells near the head end activate the first genes in the Hox clusters. The cells just below the head then switch on the second genes in the cluster, and so on. A wave of gene activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

Once a Hox gene is switched on it can stay switched on in the next few sections of cells, and it is the overlapping activity of the genes which gives each section of the body its proper identity.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb…your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth." The story of the tidy Hox genes is very relevant to these verses, bringing out the hidden beauty in the process.

The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made"!

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

New Chair for Christian Aid

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, will be the next Chair of the board of international development agency Christian Aid.

Dr Sentamu – who has been outspoken on issues of poverty and justice in the UK and globally for many years - served as the Archbishop of York from 2005 until 2020. He was created by Her Majesty the Queen, Baron of Lindisfarne in the County of Northumberland and Masooli in the Republic of Uganda. He is a member of the UK Parliament, in the House of Lords.

Born in Kampala, Uganda, Dr Sentamu will be the first person of African descent to take up the position of Chair in Christian Aid's 75-year history.

Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Chair, will stand down at Christian Aid's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, having served two full terms of office.

Announcing the appointment today, Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi said: "This is wonderful news for Christian Aid. Dr Sentamu brings with him a passion and energy for global justice, a deep love of the Church and a profound theological understanding that will be able to speak into the crises of climate change, Covid, conflict and debt that are affecting the world's poorest communities. We look forward to welcoming him to the Christian Aid family."

Please help victims of Haiti's earthquake

The Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can have launched a joint appeal in response to the powerful earthquake that recently struck Haiti's Southern Peninsula.

More than 2,000 people were crushed to death in the terrible quake. Thousands more are destitute, their homes destroyed.

"As the Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can stand together to bring hope, we invite you to stand with those affected in Haiti," says the appeal. If you can help, please go to: www.allwecan.org.uk/haiti



Bring to church on Harvest Festival

This Harvest we're asking you to help feed local people in crisis by collecting tinned and dried food for Slough Foodbank.

NB: Please make sure all food is unopened, non-perishable, in date, and undamaged. We are asking everyone to rally round to give items such as:

Pasta sauce
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned meat
Tinned fruit
Tinned rice pudding
Long-life fruit juice
Long-life milk
Jam
Long-life Sponge puddings
Coffee
Sugar (500g)

Please only donate these items that we currently need.

Due to generous donations, we are overstocked and have 12 months' supply of pasta and baked beans and DO NOT NEED THEM.

The demands on the food bank are as strong as ever and this is where we can help. Please join us by giving food so that local people in crisis don't go hungry. One in five people in the UK live in poverty; many families hit crisis and cannot afford food. More people are being referred to the food bank because they don't have enough money coming in to cover essential living costs. Rising food and fuel prices, static incomes, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing many families to struggle to put food on the table but you can help be part of the solution by supporting Slough Foodbank.

The food bank helps local individuals and families in crisis through the provision of emergency food supplies donated by churches, schools, businesses and the general public. The circumstances surrounding a crisis are unique to every individual, so the food bank partners with frontline care professionals, such as health visitors, social workers and other community-based support workers, who are able to identify people facing hunger and refer them to the food bank. As well as receiving nutritionally-balanced 3-day food parcels, people are welcomed, listened to and signposted to agencies that are able to help resolve the underlying cause of their crisis. Last year the Slough Foodbank distributed over 65.5 tonnes of food to 6,533 local people in crisis, of which 2,365 were children.

Slough Foodbank only works with non-perishable food items (tinned and dried goods), which do not spoil or decay. This means that neither the food bank nor

the recipient has to worry about storing the food in a fridge or freezer, and there is less likelihood of food going to waste. It also means that we can give each person visiting the food bank a carefully designed food parcel that contains three days' worth of nutritionally-balanced food. All items should be unopened, in date and in good condition. We are forbidden by law to give away food which has passed its "use by" date. We have no storage facilities for fresh food.

Our pledge is to provide food to people in crisis free of charge and we are very grateful to all those who donate the food that enables us to do this. There are also running costs to the food bank to enable us to store and distribute the food, so if you are able to assist in any way with financial support too, that would be very much appreciated. Please place donation in envelope provided, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely *Becks Ford*pp. Slough Foodbank
Communications Officer
Foodbank Harvest Appeal



After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations



When the film makers come to church

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble of going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmount was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary

patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

Fascinating Grotesques on Churches

A grotesque is made to collect water which is poured out of its mouth to throw it as far as possible from the building's wall. It's a mythical figure that's used for decoration - but is nearly always ugly. They have also been used as protective figures to cast away evil spirits.

There is a very famous one on Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. To me, it looks just like the devil with two horns on its head, wings, tongue sticking out and resting his head in his hands!

There is a fantastic one on Tallinn Town Hall, Estonia. Its green dragon head is sticking out of the wall as if it's crashed through. It has a red mouth and tongue, huge white teeth in a wide open mouth and is wearing a golden crown!

Bern Minster is the tallest cathedral in Switzerland. It has a unique gargoyle on it which is a stone mason bent in despair holding his hammer, with his mouth wide open of course.

Milan cathedral is world famous for its 3,400 statues, 135 of which are gargoyles.

The scariest gargoyle is on Florence Cathedral. It's called Boccalone. It has a screaming expression and a horrible gaze. It's the most photographed of all. Another creepy one is of a monk in France, curled up and screaming.

And lastly Cologne Cathedral in Germany has 125 on it. They look like they are actually jumping out of its walls and are quite life size.

Alice Sanders

Here are some more real-life extracts from church bulletins and notices that didn't come out quite in the way intended!

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

St Luke - the doctor who brought good news

This month we remember St Luke (18th October), the author of the third gospel and the Book of Acts. Throughout his writing Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is available to all people regardless of their gender, social position, or nationality. It is believed that Luke was a doctor, and he certainly sees the importance of healing in the ministry of Jesus and the Church. The signs of the presence of God's kingdom include the healing of sickness, hurts, as well as unforgiveness.

This is evident when Jesus sends out the 72 disciples in Luke 10, a reading for St Luke's Day:

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field...When you enter a town and are welcomed eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'' (Luke 10:2,8). What challenges do we find in these verses?

Firstly Luke, as a *Gentile* (a non-Jew) recognises the revolutionary way outsiders are welcomed into the faith community, e.g. Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and Cornelius (Acts 10). How can we engage with those who are outside the community of faith? We have to avoid the tendency to regard ourselves as insiders! As we reach out to those who are ready to welcome the gospel, we have an opportunity to share good news and healing in the name of Jesus.

Secondly, as an *Evangelist*, Luke wants us to share the love of Jesus with all those we encounter. However, as these verses indicate, this has got to be rooted in prayer, if we are going to be led by God in our response to others. '*Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in*' (Rowan Williams).

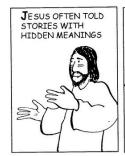
Canon Paul Hardingham

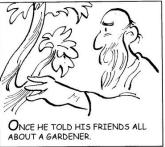
NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the November issue by **Sunday 17th October** at the latest!

Dave



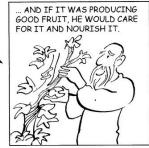




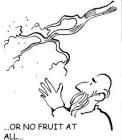




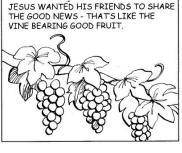
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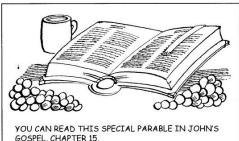




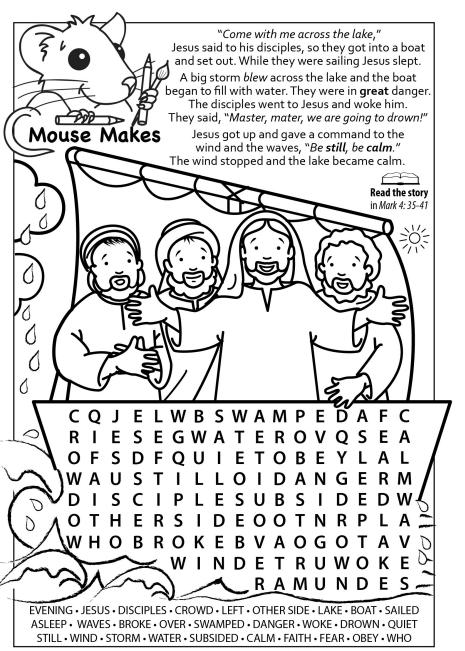








CHILDREN'S PAGE



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It can be read in the Bible in Mark 6:17-28, Matthew 14:1-11

A short story from the Bible

After Herod Antipator died, the Romans allowed his son Herod Antipas to rule Galilee and Peraea. He was hated by the Jews

Herod Antipas divorced his wife and married his brother Herod-Philip's wife



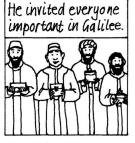


Lev 18:19,20:21. She was also his neice

Herodias hated John and wanted him dead. Herod was afraid of John and wouldn't kill him but put him in prison.







Herodias sent her daughter to dance for Herod and his guests.



(No decent girl would do this)





Salome asked Herodias, then



(Oh, no! But I made) So John was killed* and Salome of everyone!

a promise in front I was given his head. She gave it to her mother.



19



UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch. **OR**

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.



21

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SERVICES IN THE PARISH from 15th AUGUST

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.

6.30pm Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)

Tuesday: 10.00am Eucharist Wednesday: 12.30pm Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday: 11.00am Family Eucharist with children's group.

Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.

Wednesday: 9.30am Holy Communion

Websites:

https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk