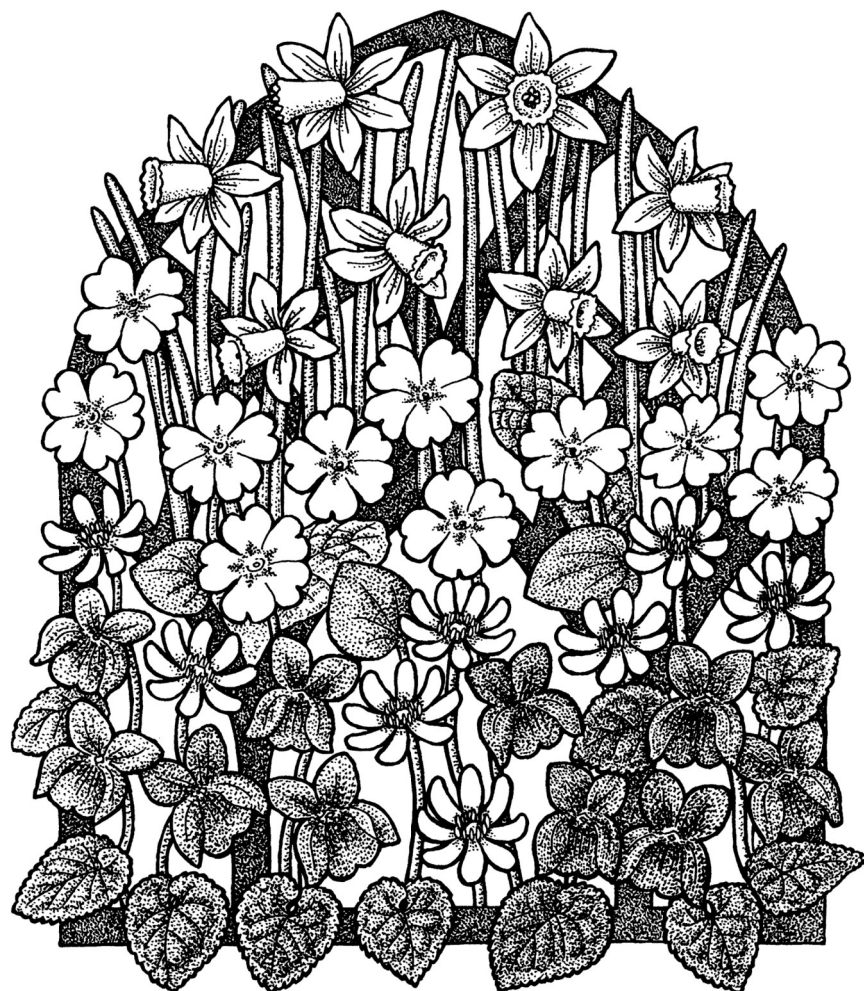


March 2022

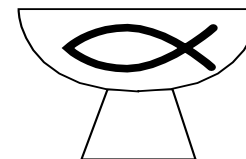
30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of
Songs 2:12



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 Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
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	07388 832233
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 Scott Lamb Friday
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>

The Rector Writes:

In recent months, I have found that HM The Queen has often been the subject of conversation. Events have meant that she has been before us in the media even more than is usual.

So many people were moved by her quiet dignity following the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Which of us was not touched by the sight of her sitting alone in St George's Chapel during Prince Philip's funeral, following the Covid guidelines just as her subjects were doing? She demonstrated leadership by example even in her saddest moment. Since those days we have followed reports about her health and thought about the impact of bereavement.

On 6th February, we used the Accession Day prayers in church marking 70 years since she acceded the throne in place of her father. It was a fittingly subdued start to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations which will culminate in the weekend around the 4-5th June. For us this includes our Big Lunch event in St Mary's for which planning is already well underway.

When we speak about The Queen it is natural to wonder about her views, whether it be about the activities of politicians or events in her own family. Of course, this can only ever be pure speculation. On these subjects we will never know what The Queen really thinks since, whether by constitution or discretion, she keeps her opinions to herself.

However, there is one area of her private life about which the Queen is not at all reticent: her faith. Through her Christmas broadcast and Sunday by Sunday through worship, the Queen has declared many times that she could not bear her responsibilities but for the wisdom and strength she finds in Christianity.

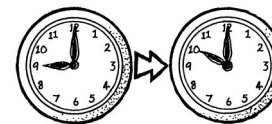
In this Jubilee year, as we rejoice in her reign and acknowledge how fortunate we are to have her as our monarch, is it too much to hope that many in our nation may have a fresh appreciation of the faith which is the foundation of her life?

Fr Scott

MARCH SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Tue 1st	2.30pm	"Mulling it Over" - see page 20 for details (SL)
Wed 2nd	9.30am 12.30pm 7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist (SP) Ash Wednesday Eucharist (SM) Ash Wednesday Eucharist (SL)
Mon 7th	8.00pm	St Peter's DCC Meeting (SP)
Tue 8th	7.30pm	St Mary's DCC Meeting (SM)
Thu 10th	7.30pm	Platinum Jubilee Planning Meeting - all welcome (see opposite page) (SM)
Sun 13th	10.45am 12.45pm	St Peter's ADCM, following 9.30am Eucharist Church Lunch: St Patrick. Sign up in church or call 01753 532425 (SL)
Sun 20th	11.00am	St Mary's ADCM, following 9.30am Eucharist (SM)
Mon 21st	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SM)
Sat 26th	12noon	St Peter's Lady Day Fayre (until 2.30pm) (SP)



Sun 27th	1.00am	British Summer Time begins - clocks forward one hour Mothering Sunday
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KEY DATES IN EARLY APRIL

Sun 3rd	12.15pm	St Laurence's ADCM, following 11am Eucharist (SL)
Sun 10th	10.00am	Palm Sunday: Joint Parish Eucharist, followed by APCM (SM)

St Mary's News

As we continue to return to a more normal pre-covid pattern of services we would like to re-instate our rota of readers on a Sunday morning. Please speak to Fr Scott if you would like to be included. Everybody is welcome whether you have been on previous rotas or would like to try for the first time.

The mother and toddler group (Start the Week) which meets in term time on a Monday morning is growing steadily. New mothers/fathers/carers with their children are arriving each week. Booking is not required and it is a happy place with new friendships being formed. We do, however, require some help especially before the sessions begin. If you have some time on a Monday from 9-11am, please get in touch

St Mary's will be hosting THE BIG LUNCH to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 5th June and we hope to welcome many of the local community to join us. Please put the date in your diary. More information will be available in the coming months but in the meantime if you have any ideas and/or are able to help please join our working group.

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

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

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

These free art classes are held in St Mary's, every Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and are open to all.

Numbers drop at Sunday services

In the past 30 years, the Church of England has seen a steep decline in the attendance at Sunday services.

Numbers are down by an average of 40 per cent at Sunday services in churches across the UK's 43 dioceses. The only exception is London, where there has been a rise in Sunday worshippers.

A recent analysis of Church of England data shows that between 1987 and 2019 the number fell from around 1.2 million to 689,000.

St Laurence's News

We were saddened to hear of the death of Barbara Hillier at the age of 93. She was one of the stalwarts of St Laurence's Church for many decades and served in all of the lay leadership roles as well as being a dedicated member of the Mother's Union. I hope to be able to publish an appreciation of her life in a future issue. Her funeral service will be at St Laurence's on Friday 4th March at 2.00pm.

This year, we shall be marking the bicentenary of the death of Sir William Herschel, musician and eminent astronomer, in a series of events. Look out for details. It's worth noting that he discovered the planet Uranus on 13th March 1781, so our March church lunch will take place on the 241st anniversary of his discovery.

British Summer Time begins on 27th March, so don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour the night before or you'll miss our Mothering Sunday service!

Dave



Steve put the finishing touches to Peter's Lent array

St Peter's News

Throughout Lent we will be observing Stations of the Cross online on Fridays at 6.30pm, beginning on 4th March. Details to follow.

The District Church Council meets on Monday 7th and our annual district church meeting will follow our Eucharist on Sunday 13th.

Our regular Easter bazaar is being renamed this year as a Lady Day Fayre. (Two years ago, literally just before the first lock-down due to Covid, we held a Mad March Fair). It will be held on Saturday 26th, the day before Mothering Sunday. We will have the usual attractions, including light lunches, tombola, raffle and individual stalls and we will be open from 12noon until 2.30pm.

Margaret



Living in Love and Faith Course

Colnbrook and Datchet will be running the Living in Love and Faith course for five weeks on Wednesday's, commencing on the 9th February. The course will look at issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. There will be two sessions each week, one at St Mary's, Datchet at 12.00pm and one at St Thomas, Colnbrook at 7.30pm. Each session will be approximately one and a half to two hours.

This is a Church of England initiative. If you would like to find out more about it please visit the website for more information:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

The course is open to anyone in the deanery who would like to participate. If you would like to join the course, send an email to the deanery email address (sloughburnhamdeanery@gmail.com).

Charity Cakes and Ale

The oldest endowed church service started in 1481. A Mr Jankyn Smith was a benefactor to the town of Bury St Edmund's in Suffolk. He left a bequest in his will for a mass to be held each year on the anniversary of his death. This included cakes and ale, plus money to the local residents in the almshouses which he founded. The charity still continues today. The special service is held at St Mary's Church with the cakes and ale to follow in the Guildhall.

Alice Sanders

'Anxiety' comes top

The word 'anxiety' has been chosen by children as how they would describe their experience of 2021.

Oxford University Press (OUP) asked more than 8,000 pupils, aged between seven and 14, to select a word from a shortlist of 10 words. The words were: anxiety, challenging, isolate, wellbeing, resilience, bubble, kindness, remote, cancelled, empathy.

The children were asked to choose which word they felt was most applicable to them. 'Anxiety' was closely followed by 'challenging', and then 'isolate'.

Bored with retirement?

People who retired early (before the age of 66) are going back to work. A study has found that the reason is because they miss having a sense of daily purpose in their lives, or they miss the companionship of work colleagues.

A recent study by Aviva found that people who want to retire early do so primarily because they want to have more freedom while still being fit enough to enjoy it. But sometimes, it seems, retirement is not as much fun as they had expected it to be.

Looking

In Swansea there used to be a well-known firm of solicitors called W G Christian and Sons. A letter sent to them from overseas was addressed simply: W. G. Christian, South Wales. It eventually arrived at their office with a note from the Post Office attached. It read: "No Christians in Cardiff – try Swansea."



Observing Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast.'* (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

The act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life. It shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender *'my idols'* to Him. It encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, e.g. joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Every church region in the country signs up to become an Eco Diocese

All 42 dioceses in the Church of England have signed up to become an 'eco diocese' as part of their commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Eco Dioceses scheme, developed by the charity A Rocha UK, sees churches and dioceses awarded bronze, silver, or gold status depending on actions taken to improve their environmental footprint.

The Church of England is seeking to reach 'net zero' carbon by 2030 to meet a target set by General Synod in 2020.

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and lead bishop for the environment, said:

"A Rocha UK's Eco Church and Diocese scheme is a great tool which enables local churches at every level of their climate justice journey to engage with environmental issues. As Christians, we must make real differences to our lives to care for God's creation and limit the impact of the climate emergency.

"The whole Church is currently looking at our proposed Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and I would encourage everyone to read it and engage with the survey so we can make the journey to net zero carbon together."

New 'cathedral' of digital worshippers emerges from online broadcasts

Members of a new 'cathedral' of online worshippers, formed since the first lockdown, have played a key role in the Church of England's recent 100th national online service.

The first national online service was broadcast from the crypt chapel at Lambeth Palace on Mothering Sunday 2020 as the nation went into lockdown. Since then, a service has been broadcast every Sunday – with additional services broadcast over Easter, Advent and Christmas.

The success of the online broadcasts has been described as "bit like an online cathedral - we have a solid core of worshippers and lots of visitors who stream a service occasionally."

The Real Easter Egg celebrates its 12th year with an invitation to ‘Let’s Celebrate’!

For the first time since the pandemic began, churches and communities across the UK will be coming together to celebrate Easter as restrictions are relaxed. So, no wonder that the theme for the Real Easter Egg this year is ‘Let’s Celebrate’!

The Real Easter Egg was created in 2010 as a way for churches, groups and individuals to share the Easter story while supporting Fairtrade. 12 years on, it has a network of thousands of churches and supports. More than three million people have read the Easter Stories it produces, and it has raised more than £320,000 for good causes.

This year, you can also reach out to UK families facing hardship by donating to food banks through the Real Easter Egg’s new foodbank scheme.

All Real Easter Eggs are made of Fairtrade chocolate and come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions with a prize competition worth £200. They are Palm oil free and plastic free.

Because of the continued effects of the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2022 and support producers. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. More details at www.realeasteregg.co.uk



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

Lenten Contrition

During the middle of the tenth century the Bishop of Exeter, Leofric, presented a collection of prayers to his cathedral. The author is unknown, but the meditations present an insight into the Anglo-Saxon Christian spirit. Here is one considering Lent.

Give me, O Lord, patience and sense of purpose in each of the things which you send to beset me. You know the many wicked deeds which burden my heart. But out of compassion you set aside all blame and receive me as your own. Please protect me through the dangers and confusion of my transient life on earth, ensuring that in all things I strive for eternal life in heaven.

I know that I am very slow to make amends for my sins, despite the many favours you grant me. Fix my trust, my timid hopes, upon yourself, so that I may stand on a secure foundation. Lift up my thoughts with your wisdom.

Stand by me, Lord, and hold me upright when the gales of sin blow round me. And when the dark stormy night of wickedness closes in on me, guide my steps. My soul is already battered by the temptations to which I have submitted. My spirit is crushed by the weight of past misdeeds. My mind is stained by the memory of the evil in which I have participated. Throughout my life you have been unfailingly generous to me, although I have deserved only punishment.

Ah Lord, you are the only remedy. Let my suffering bring me true contrition, that I may receive your forgiveness, and so be made fit for the everlasting joy of heaven.

Science and a sense of the Transcendent

What is the difference between a cathedral and a physics lab? Are they not both saying: ‘Hello’? - Annie Dillard

Scientists often speak of a reality beyond the objects they are studying, and for some this is encountered in powerful – if rare – episodes of wonder and awe. The Christian writer J.W. Sire quotes this line from Annie Dillard in his book *Echoes of a Voice*, which explores spiritual or ‘transcendent’ experiences.

In his analysis of these experiences Sire describes moments that are “emotional, intellectual, highly charged, usually sudden, unannounced, often odd, some weird, others glorious”, and places them on three different levels:

A material object that points beyond the material reality. For example, someone

might develop a sense of what is good and evil, based on the actions of others.

Experience of “something personal...just behind the surface of what we are directly experiencing, often something with which one feels at peace or even at one, or, perhaps, as dangerous or threatening.”

A felt presence that has a specific character or presence, e.g., holiness, or inspiring humility, fearful awe or wonder.

According to Sire, level 1-2 experiences are fairly common but level 3 is rare. He gives a wide range of examples, including scientists. Some of these people are religious or interested in spirituality, others are atheists. Some of their moments of transcendence carried a particular meaning, others simply sparked curiosity.

The famous geneticist Francis Collins described several significant moments when he was young: “being transported by the experience of looking through a telescope”, or “a Christmas Eve where the descant on a particularly beautiful Christmas carol...left me with a sense of unexpected awe and a longing for something I could not name”.

These experiences meant that when Collins was faced with the question of belief in God, “all [his] arguments seemed very thin”. Now, as a fully-fledged scientist and a believer in God, he is able to say that “for a scientist who occasionally is given the remarkable privilege of discovering something not previously known by man, there is a special kind of joy associated with such flashes of insight.”

Most of us are not scientists, but we may well have had experiences like this in different contexts. How can we, in our engagement with scientifically minded individuals, make connections through our shared experience of the transcendent? Can we listen as well as explain, finding some common points of connection?

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

Best

A reporter was interviewing the town’s oldest woman. “And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?” he asked.

“That’s easy,” she said. “No peer pressure.”



On how to sabotage a music festival

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung *al fresco* in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drinks labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set

the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the April issue by **Sunday 13th March** at the latest!

Dave



Steve put the finishing touches to Peter's Lent array

Remembering Mothers

The honouring of mothers goes back to Roman times. Each Spring, a pagan festival honoured Cybele, supreme Goddess of Fertility and Mother of all the Gods. Other celebrations paid tribute to Mother Earth. From the Middle Ages, in England, it became traditional for outdoor labourers and craftsmen to have a day off in Lent. Later, domestic servants were also given short leave to visit their mother and family.

These brief holidays became opportunities to go to church. This might have been their home church or their nearest cathedral. The Services at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. The term 'Mothering Sunday' dates from the 16th century. This year it falls on the 27th March.

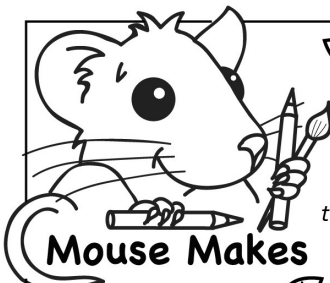
'Mother's Day' is a secular festival. It originated in 1908 after a woman called Anna Jarvis held a church memorial service for her mother in West Virginia, USA. She was a peace activist and a nurse. She founded Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna wanted people to honour the mother of the family, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Before she died Anna regretted the commercialism that followed and expressed that this was never her intention.

Many mothers are mentioned in the Bible along with interesting stories about them. These include Eve, Hagar, Leah, Ruth and Bathsheba, to mention only a few. A few times God enabled childless women to have a baby: Rachel, Rebekah, Manoah's wife (unnamed) and Hannah who eventually gave birth to Joseph, Jacob, Samson and Samuel respectively. There was also Sarah, wife of Abraham, who aged 90 became the mother of Isaac.

It is possible that these miraculous births were remembered by the Virgin Mary. She was certainly aware that her elderly relative was pregnant. These events foreshadowed angel Gabriel's announcement that Mary was going to have a baby. Then added "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

On our Mothering Sunday, what else can we remember about mothers and give thanks to God for them?

CHILDREN'S PAGE



GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?
 Jesus said:
 "No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit...
 ... Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."
 - Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.

READ
 Luke 6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?
 Look up Luke 6:31

Do

to everyone who asks you Luke 6:30

to those that hate you Luke 6:27

for those who are cruel to you Luke 6:28

those who curse you Luke 6:28

and you will be forgiven Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.
 GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
 PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

The gardener and the Vine

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES

HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.

IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...

...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...

... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.

YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son...




But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him.

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Regd. Charity 249723

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME
All are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

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

oOo

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier, open to all. (St Laurence's Church)

Useful number: Julie James 01753 532425

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SERVICES IN THE PARISH

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>

