



28th November 2021



Dear Friend, I hope this mail finds you and all yours well.

Last weekend was very special for us as a parish. We had our Annual Winter Fair. It was a resounding success. Many visitors and

members were pleased with it. I am particularly grateful to Claire Goodfellow and her team for all the hard work to achieve this success. Often it is said that Saint Mary's is a family. The Fair brought this to the fore. We are a family, not only amongst ourselves. Our family includes all who live, work or visit Oatlands. It is thus no wonder that the Fair was graced with the presence of all and sundry. The Choir from Cleves School and Krystyna Salter sang, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Beavers were present, and many people enjoyed going up the Bell Tower for a Bird's Eye view of our parish. There were so many things going on simultaneously, and I am sure some of us would have missed a part of it! It was an occasion that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. I hope and pray we continue to share this joy and community spirit. Last Sunday, we celebrated Christ The King, as we were reminded constantly to acknowledge Christ as our ONLY King and live in the ways He would want us to live. It was appropriate that four of our members were Confirmed in their faith by Bishop Jo Bailey Wells on the same day. It was a joyful and wonderful experience, and I hope you will join me in congratulating Eloise Cox, Julian Sergeant, Matthew Fox and Philip Evans as they commit their lives to the King of All Kings. Please continue to hold them in your prayers. This Sunday is Advent Sunday, and it marks the beginning of the Church Year. We will meet at 8, and 10 am for Holy Communion Services and on Wednesday at 10.30 am. I hope you can join us. I am more than ever aware of the mental strain the current socio-economic and political situation has placed on us. It is not healthy to bottle up all that we are dealing with. Bottling up is neither a show of strength nor a sign of weakness. Please could I encourage you to speak to someone if you ever need to? Remember, " a problem shared is a problem halved". As Christians, we are encouraged to pray for each other and share each other's burdens. Please give me a call if you would like to speak with someone.

I wish you a happy Advent.

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This Week's Bible Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13, Luke 21: 25-36

Praying for the world especially: The migrants and their families who lost their lives in the Channel this week. All who suffer from any form of mental ill-health, victims of abuse and discrimination and all who are fearful of the future. **We Remember the Recently Departed:** Molly Stuart, Alexander Animashaun, Paddy Hartigan, Alfred Oliviera, Rita Clarkson, Gladys Clarkson, Janet Cradduck and Gordon Jones. **From the Memorial Book:** Reverend Gibbin Vicar of Oatlands 1977, Russell Smith, Joan Abell, Rebecca Davies, Ruth Cole, Hester Kippax, Claire Driver, Mary Cleland, Frederick Hobday and Lucy Yardley. We also pray for one of our local families who need our love and support at this time. **Please pray for:** For George Thomas and his family being baptised on 28th November. **Funeral Dates: Janet Cradduck:** The funeral of Janet Cradduck will take place on Thursday 2nd December at 2pm at St Mary Oatlands followed by committal at Woking Crematorium at 4pm. **Rita Clarkson:** The funeral of Rita Clarkson will take place on Friday 3rd December at 11.45 am at Randalls Park Crematorium, followed by a Thanksgiving service at 1.15pm at St Mary Oatlands. **Gladys Clarkson:** The funeral of Gladys Clarkson will take place on Friday 10th December at 10.45 am at St Mary Oatlands, followed by committal at S.W. Middx Crematorium at 12.40pm. **Other Dates: SMART Mother and Toddler Group:** Tuesdays during term time 10-11.30am in the Church Hall. Could you support this friendly group of Mums and Toddlers and help them to serve refreshments at their meetings on a rota basis? **Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal:** Thank you so much to everyone who has supported this appeal and returned boxes. If you haven't returned your shoebox yet, please could you do so as soon as possible. **Walton Voices:** Christmas Concert Saturday 11th December at 7.30 pm The choir will be joined by Promenade Youth Choir for one big festive extravaganza. Refreshments are provided in the interval. Tickets are £12 for adults and free for Under 16s and can be purchased via their website: www.waltonvoices.co.uk **Christmas Cards:** We have bought a large number of good quality Christmas Cards, personalised on the back with the SMO logo and 'Meeting Point at St Mary Oatlands'. They come in a pack of 10 - 5 designs - for just £2.50 a pack! It would help us enormously if you could support us by buying as many sets as possible! They are excellent value and any profit will help pay for speakers and other costs of running Meeting Point. Joan Ewing will take orders. You can collect from her home or I can bring them to church or drop them off for you. Please make cheques payable to 'Meeting Point'. Thanks for buying from us. We understand that it's a time of year when there are lots of demands for your money... but, if you send cards, these Christmas Cards will only be available this year! Best wishes and thank you in advance and spread the word! Joan Ewing jandpe1@btinternet.com Tel 01932 849845 Jane Ruddlesdin janeruddlesdin@gmail.com Tel 01932 849510. Help is required with the following special events and services. Please would you consider sparing some time? **Refreshments** Serving seasonal refreshments in the Church Hall for Walton Leigh School Carol Service on Mon 13th Dec at 9.30 am. Refreshments to follow the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service (6 pm) on Sun 19th December. **Welcomers** are required for the following services: Crib Service on 24th Dec 4 pm & the Midnight Holy Communion service at 11 pm on 24th Dec also for Christmas Day 10 am service of Holy Communion. Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you. **Light up the Church:** The lights have been sponsored this week by:- Brenda Jones, Alison and Lucy. 'Stephen Jones. Loved and Lost, but never forgot'. Also sponsored by Jonathan Boyns, Nicola and Edward. 'In Loving Memory of Ann Boyns on her birthday 28th November'.