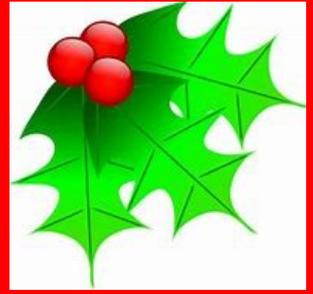


Fellowship News

The bi-monthly newsletter for the parishes of Woburn, Eversholt, Milton Bryan and Battlesden with Potsgrove
December 2020/January 2021



Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)

After a review of mission and charities supported by St Mary's Church the PCC decided to partner with CSW which is doing work around the world to support the freedom of everyone to worship without fear.

CSW's team of specialist advocates work in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, to ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld and protected. They describe their work:

"Our vision is a world free from religious persecution, where everyone can practise a religion or belief of their choice.

We gather evidence and document abuses

Our teams regularly visit the countries we're working in to gather first-hand evidence of violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief. Our research and analysis is used by politicians, policy-makers and international institutions around the world.

We regularly provide decision-makers in the UK parliament, United Nations, European Union and US Congress with accurate reports on freedom of religion or belief around the world.

We train, equip and empower

We believe that to bring lasting change we must work with activists, journalists, religious leaders and partner NGOs in the countries on which we focus.

It's a priority for us to build and equip networks of partners and communities, empowering them to become advocates for justice.

We enable policy-makers to stand up for Freedom of Religion or Belief

We challenge and encourage those in positions of power whose policies or actions can make a difference, to bring about change. We work extensively at the United Nations, and with the UK and US governments, the European Union and other regional and international bodies.

We are the only advocacy organisation with a sole focus on freedom of religion or belief for all with UN accreditation, which enables us to provide those marginalised on account of their religion or belief with an international platform.



Early Rain Church, China where over 100 members have been arrested and whose pastor Wang Yi has been sentenced to nine years in prison for subversion of the state



As Christians we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief."
Everyone. Free to believe.

To learn more about the work being done and to see how you could be involved go to www.csw.org.uk

Contact: Benefice Office: (Monday - Friday)
Rector: Rev Steve Nuth

07562 390513 woburnbenefice@gmail.com
01525 290225 rectornuth@gmail.com



I was thrilled to be told by Yvonne Mills that the PCC have agreed to make the Salvation Army ministry to victims of modern slavery a beneficiary of the St Mary's regular mission giving. I am so grateful for this generous support.

The Salvation Army has recently been reappointed by the Government to care for the victims of Modern Slavery in England and Wales. The Salvation Army and its specialist partners have developed expertise in helping more than 10,000 adult victims of modern slavery and human trafficking since July 2011 under a Home Office initiative.

For more than 150 years The Salvation Army has been working with victims of slavery with activities across the world to support the communities most at risk.

Centuries after slavery was officially abolished, thousands of people are still being exploited and sold as slaves across the UK. They can be forced to work in the sex trade, used as domestic slaves, exploited for labour or criminal activity, or have their organs removed to be sold.

Victims trafficked into the UK are often unable to speak English, have had their travel and identity documents removed, and are told that if they try to attempt an escape, they or their families will be harmed.

Everyone helped by The Salvation Army support receives access to a wide range of specialist services to meet their individual needs whether that is within a safehouse or through outreach support. This includes:

- confidential legal advice
- health care
- Counselling
- educational opportunities
- financial support
- support in obtaining employment and housing

Steve Apted

Develop Not Drift

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it

1 Corinthians 12:22

The time we are in has the potential for either drift or development both for our Church families and for each of us as individual disciples of Jesus Christ.

Since preaching on Bible Sunday (25th October), I have been busy asking all the members of the Churches of our Benefice who are technologically able to join an online Fellowship group for one hour per fortnight.



I have invited our congregations to consider this hour a fortnight as first an offering to God, second an investment in the spiritual development of the Church family, and third a resource for their individual journey of discipleship.

There are now eight groups set up to meet on the Zoom platform. Each group has a leader. The hour opens and closes with prayer. In between there can be sharing news so that members can support each other in prayer. Importantly, space for God to speak to the group through His word, the Bible.

There are ideas to make it easy for anyone to contribute.

If you are not yet involved in one of these groups and would like to know more please contact me on 07707 020029 or at rectornuth@gmail.com

Steve Nuth

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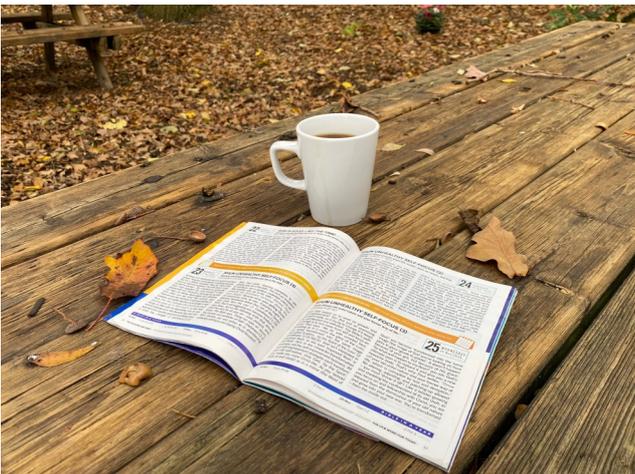
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United Christian Broadcasters

United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) has a mission: to offer every person, in every place, every moment of the day, the opportunity to hear, watch or read the Word of God in a relevant and engaging way.



We do all this by providing a range of Christian resources: two national Christian radio stations on DAB (UCB 1 and UCB 2); UCB Player, an app which livestreams UCB radio as well as hosting various podcasts and teaching programs; and publications, including two daily devotionals – the UCB Word For Today and Word For You (for young adults).



We also provide a prayer service – UCB Prayerline – which is staffed by volunteers who receive over 80,000 calls each year from people who need prayer. UCB is also the UK partner of OneHope, helping to provide innovative children's resources for churches and young people.

We know that God's Word is powerful and can transform lives, and everything we do is motivated by the mission to help change lives for good by the power of God's Word.



I've been working at UCB now for over five years, and I continue to be amazed at how God uses the UCB radio and daily devotionals to reach people both in the UK and abroad. For example, Dorothy wrote in to say *UCB Radio and Word for Today were like a soothing balm and a lifeline to me, healing my heart that was broken in so many pieces.* We receive countless stories of how lives have been changed by God through the ministry.

Thank you from everyone at UCB to St Mary's for your support, which truly makes a difference to many, many people. For more information go to <https://www.ucb.co.uk/>

Alison Macpherson

Christmas Services

Because of the current restrictions this year's Carol and Crib services are going to be recorded and available on YouTube.

Details of St Mary's, Woburn Services will be available on the St Mary's Website

<https://www.woburnparishchurch.co.uk>

For St Peter's, Milton Bryan visit

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7658/>

Information from St John the Baptist Eversholt and St Peter and All Saints, Battlesden will be circulated on village WhatsApp groups.



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St John the Baptist Church Eversholt



Having managed a very good Harvest Service in October we have been lucky to be able to hold a Remembrance Service on 8th November. It was touch and go, due to the Government changing its mind with regard to this service. In Eversholt we are lucky that we can gather around our War Memorial outside with plenty of room for social distancing.

It was really heart warming to see how many residents turned up at our 3.00 pm service, and making sure that they followed the rules. Any extra folk were able to stand in the road. We also had the added luxury of David and son Jack playing the Last Post on their trumpets, filling the air with the poignant music. There were much appreciated comments posted on our village Whatsapp on being able to have a moving Remembrance acknowledgment of those who have given their lives in combat serving their country.

It also included all those who have died from the ongoing “war” of Covid-19. An added bonus was that the rain which was forecast stayed away. A collection was taken and £131.72p has been sent to the British Legion. Thank you to all who gave.

The Christmas service is still so uncertain at the time of writing. We have cancelled our very popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve as the Church is always full, standing room only. So,

we hope to have a 9.00 am communion on Christmas Day but those wishing to attend would have to book a pew as our Church is not very big. There will be no singing but recordings of carols will be added during the service as a compensation.

Our Home Group continues on Zoom, and if anyone would like to join please ask Steve Nuth for a joining code for future meetings. We meet to chat, discuss a passage of the bible or a saying, and catch up with each other’s activities.

Carolyn Howell
Eversholt PCC Secretary



Are you an online shopper, then consider shopping the easyfundraising way and supporting your local church.

To date, from registration just a few years ago, St. Peter's has raised over £1,000 and counting, Woburn just over £360 and Eversholt Bell Fund over £75—quite amazing what a little online shopping can achieve collectively towards our church funds.

Links for each of the churches involved are shown below—the website will show which companies are involved so get shopping!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpetersmiltonbryan/>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryswoburn/>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/eversholtbellfund/>

**A Merry and
Blessed
Christmas to all our
readers**

