

St Mary's Church Knowsley Village

Team Vicar: Rev Hugh Lea-Wilson, St Mary's Vicarage
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26th July 2021

Dear Friends

Summer's here (and hopefully not gone!)

This comes to convey greetings and good wishes from many in St Mary's, as well as myself. We trust you've been keeping well, and have been thriving – or at least surviving, in this hot spell. But as the weather turns today/tomorrow, we are reminded of the different seasons or phases of life that we go through, both as individuals and in society – including life in St Mary's!

Yes, we've been meeting each week at 10.45am since Easter Sunday and many have enjoyed our combined worship service. But we've also missed some of you who haven't been able to join us since the beginning of last year - it seems a long time! Do let me or anyone from the PCC know if there's anything that we can do to enable you to rejoin us, notably with transport. We've had a week since restrictions have been lifted, though we are trying to keep our social distancing and respect for one another as we seek to be a place where everyone can feel safe and comfortable.

You'll be interested to know we're also in the midst of a rich season of weddings – 4 already this month, with 2 more this coming weekend, and 3 in September! Hopefully August will be a quieter month, and it may be that you will feel more comfortable joining us then. Holy Communion will be on August 1st and 22nd, with a Baptism Service on the 29th, on the Hall Field if weather allows, and hopefully with our friends from St George's, followed by a shared BBQ.

September we move into a new season, and trust that you can join us for a 'Vision Evening' on Monday 6th September at 7.15pm. And if you can't join us, please pray for us as we consider how we can best shape our worship and where we can most fruitfully focus our energies. We want to make sure we listen to you and other regular worshippers at St Mary's, but also be open to how we can best serve and reach out to others who are not yet part of St Mary's, but on whom its future will depend. We are greedy for your prayers and for God's guidance!

In this regard, can I share a verse with you. We held our last 'Connect Wednesday' Group last week and shared our favourite verses. These are highlighted on the back of this letter and can I suggest you look them up in full. May you be richly blessed in reading and reflecting on them. My favourite verse from when I was a boy is Isaiah 58:11

*The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.*

Wishing you good health, and a great summer – and hope to see you soon!

Best wishes, Rev Hugh Lea-Wilson

Our Vision: "To be an 'Open Door Church' to share God's love for the world and be a community growing in the love of Jesus Christ" together with our partner churches in the '4Saints Team':
St Jude's Stockbridge Village, St George's Huyton and St Luke's West Derby

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Favourite Verses (Connect Group 21st July 2021)

John Reddington	Philippians 4:4-6	Rejoice in the Lord always...
Frances Jones	John 13:36	You cannot come, but you will follow me later
Cheryl Cooke	John 14:2-4	I will prepare a place for you...
Val Mackie	Matthew 7:7,8	Ask and it will be given you; seek... knock...
Dot Collins	Psalms 139 – eg 17,18	How precious are your thoughts to me – I am always with you
Barb Cowley	Ps 46:1-3 Ps 46:10	God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble Be still and know that I am God
Rob Newton	Psalms 23	The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want...
Jane Ratcliffe	Jeremiah 29:11	For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...
John Crawford	ditto	... plans to prosper you and not to harm you
John Newton	Colossians 2:6,7	Continue to live in Christ, rooted and built up in Him... ... overflowing with thankfulness
Hugh Lea-Wilson	Isaiah 58:11	(then) the Lord will guide you always... ... and satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land...
Julia Hausermann	Matthew 19:26 Philippians 4:13	With God all things are possible I can do all things who strengthens me...

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