



The Priory Church of St Mary



Welcome. This month we celebrate our community both within the church and our wider community. Recognising the work we do together to support each other and share our gifts as members of the church family, particularly during difficult times.

A couple of changes to note: the Healing service has a new time of 11am on Thursday and no need to book to attend a service at St Mary's as space for all unless a special service where large numbers are expected.

Romans 12:3-8 New International Version

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

St Mary's Community

There are many organisations directly and indirectly aligned to the church and all are welcome including:

Ladies group restarting with an informal social and refreshment at 3pm on 17th June.

Family church have continued to keep in touch throughout the last year and plan to meet for a picnic in July.

Youth Group was thriving before the lockdown and details of the next meeting will be announced soon. A new youth leader is being sought - please contact Rev.Sally if interested.

Choir has continued to meet and practice on zoom and recently recorded favourite hymns for the services using technology to bring together the voices.

School links have been maintained and children receive a bible from the church when they leave the school to move to the secondary school.

Bell ringers are looking forward to coming together again when restrictions are lifted.

And not forgetting the support to other organisations in our community including the Ravens House Trust and the Food Kitchen.

After church coffee has restarted in the garden of remembrance and is a welcome opportunity to catch up with friends.

Please contact a member of the PCC for contact details and all ideas to extend our work into the wider community welcome.



Cheering up the walkers with decorated gates and flowers in the churchyard started during the height of the pandemic.

*"Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can."*

John Wesley

Notice of Tidy Up

The PCC are arranging to carry out further work around the church and in the graveyard to include a tidy up some of the graves that are becoming overgrown.

We appreciate that we need to be sensitive to the needs and wishes of relatives who tend individual graves and if you would like any particular grave left untouched, or if you would like to clear a relative's grave yourself, please contact one of the Wardens.

We plan to continue to do this work over the summer and the next tidy up is on Saturday 19th June and will be following the Government guidelines to ensure volunteers are safe. Please contact a Warden if you wish to assist with the tidy up.

Church Members

Thank you so very much for supporting local people in need through our Food Kitchen. Gloria Dolan the lady who organises the kitchen visits customers regularly and/or speaks to a number of them and/or their families by phone. They very much appreciate the work we do and love the delicious meals which have a really positive effect on their health and well-being. So many customers would struggle hugely to shop for and cook tasty, nutritious, fresh meals – and for many it would be impossible.

Quite a few of our recipients live rather solitary lives and look forward to having a little chat. They know we care about them. It's hoped that in the autumn, all being well, we may be able to offer social afternoons twice weekly in the hall where customers can meet for a chat, cup of tea and possibly other activities.

You may or may not know many of our church members volunteer on a regular basis at the kitchen each week and many bake cakes. We offer a fully cooked meal and a large piece of cake every Tuesday and Thursday. Food parcels are distributed to those in need on a Tuesday as well. Donations of money, food or home made cakes are always very welcome. If you can make a cake or donation the kitchen is open between 10 and 12pm on Tuesday and Thursday and it would be much appreciated.

Gloria spends many hours on administration, applying for grants and visiting customers. Our customers are very appreciative and as I have said so we are very lucky to be able to offer this service in Usk free of charge.

If anyone wants to enjoy a meal or have further information please let me know.

Dee Seabourne

The Joy of Volunteering

Like so many individuals in our wonderful Usk Community, both from within and outside our Church family, I am privileged to volunteer in various capacities – church warden of course being one of these! I feel privileged because every single one of my voluntary roles gives me the opportunity to make a difference, to care and to give of my time, my talents and my love- and without any shadow of a doubt I get back multiples of what I put in.

One of my current volunteering roles is one you may know little about. I am a volunteer case worker with the Monmouthshire branch of the Farming Community Network (FCN) which is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times. Volunteers provide free, confidential, pastoral and practical support to anyone who seeks help, regardless of whether the issue is personal or business-related.

FCN is a Christian organisation, and each local group has a Chaplain who supports the volunteers and leads the group meetings in prayer.

If you would like to know more about this organisation, or know someone who may be in need of support, please ask me, or visit www.fcn.org.uk.

Sarah Byford

FCN | **THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK**
Here for *you*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Ghost, be
with you all. Amen.

-2 Corinthians 13:14