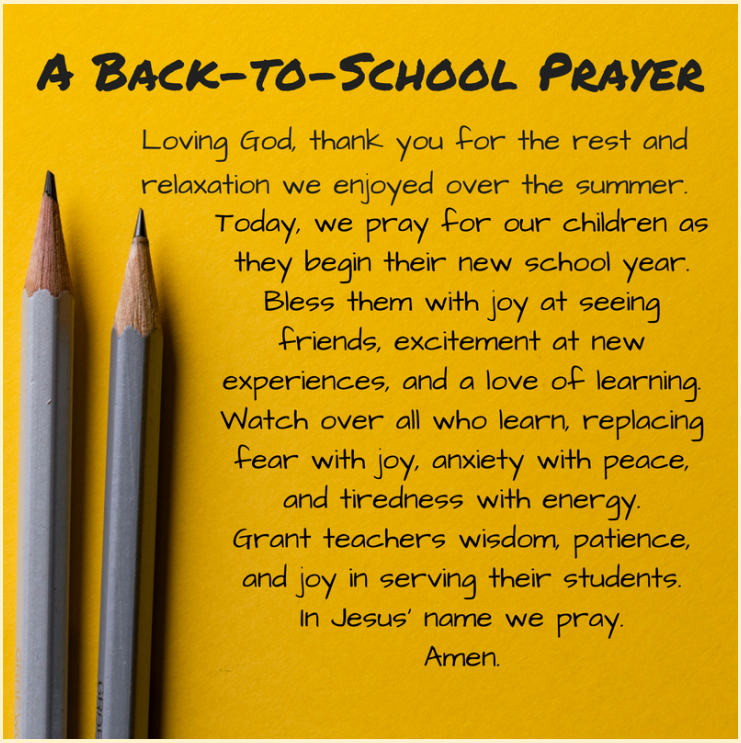
The Priory Church of St Mary
Keep in Touch
August 2023

Looking Forward

As we look forward to the new academic year, Team St Mary's are preparing for a busy couple of months ahead. Everyone is welcome to volunteer or support the activities both in church and in the wider community.



Church Maintenance

Thank you to everyone involved in the maintenance and work taking place in the church. This work will ensure the building is ready for the future.

North Porch

Have you stopped and looked into the refreshed north porch? Caroline Coggan has created a quiet and reflective spot. The next time you are walking past the church on your own or with friends or family take a few minutes out to stop and think.

Autumn Diary

Some of the activities at St Mary's to help you plan your diary.
Contact Sarah or Carol for details:

September

- 14th September – Ladies Group (3pm) All welcome to join for prayer, tea, cake and a chat.
- 17th September – Harvest service and Lunch
- 23rd September – Branwens walk at Wentwood
- 25th September – ECO group meeting
- 30th September – MA Vision morning (9:30 to 12:30)

October

15th October – 10:30 Open the Book performance in church

November

- 2nd November – all souls day (6:30pm)
- 12th November (10:15am) – Remembrance Sunday
- 18th November – Blaenavon MVC in aid of Mayors charities

Open the Book

Following great feedback from both the teachers and children the team will be going back to school once a month from September.

You will have a chance to watch a performance at the church service on 15th October.

The team are always on the lookout for volunteers to help either acting or behind the scenes making props.

Contact Caroline Coggan for more information.

ECO Group

A very successful start with an audit that demonstrated how much progress had been made in the last two years. There is some way to go and new activities will be shared as the group continue the work in the autumn.

Our latest initiative is the installation of a water butt in the Garden of Remembrance, (thanks to John for attaching it to the downpipe). Please use this for watering flowers in the churchyard - there are watering cans beside the water butt.

Enjoy Harvest Feast (Dee Seabourne)

Prepare a feast with all local ingredients (make sure you get some grain in there) to honour the abundance of the season. Head to a farmers' market if you can so you're also buying local produce and supporting local growers. (You can also do a potluck and encourage everyone bringing a dish to prepare with in season ingredients). Decorate your table with fresh flowers sheafs of wheat, and red, orange or yellow (or natural beeswax) candles. Feast with your friends and family to celebrate this first harvest and all the bounty nature has to offer this time of year.

All are welcome to join our Harvest lunch.

There are many Harvest Lunches across our Ministry Area and our own at St Mary's Usk will be held on Sunday 17th September following our Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 10:30am. Come and join us for friendship and fellowship all are welcome. Centenary Hall, Usk, 12:30pm Tickets are £10 (children under 14 free). Please contact: Carol, Dee, Debbie and Sarah for tickets.

Branwen's Walk

Many of you will remember Branwen's walks last year at Cefn Ilaas a great opportunity to come together and enjoy the autumn colours. Branwen is organising a walk at Wentwood on Saturady 23rd September.
More details to follow.

Baby and Toddlers Group

The group started 12 months ago and has grown to meet a community need. Meeting weekly more volunteers are welcome to help – please contact Judith Lee.

The summer picnic in the park was a great success on one of the few sunny days in August.

Ukrainian Days Out

Once again, this year we have worked in partnership with our friends from the Chernobyl charity.

We have supported five family days out including Barry Island and St Fagans.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped make the days so successful and accessible for everyone.