



# The Priory Church of St Mary

## Keep in Touch

### October 2023



Lord, we praise you when the harvest is plenty. We thank you for the abundance and overflow of goodness and blessings you give us. How humbled we are at your favour in our lives. As we find ourselves in a season of richness, may you cause our hearts to remember others. As your word instructs us, guide us to be helpers to those in need, givers to those who have less, and generous with our time, talents, and resources. We want to be obedient and faithful to you by giving to others the overflow of what we have, so that you would bless the work of our hands. We ask to be cheerful givers and to be representatives of your love in this world.



Amen.

**Dream Team – Thank you to the group who helped clean up the churchyard on a perfect autumn morning.**



#### Dates for your Diary

##### November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls Day (6:30pm)
- 5<sup>th</sup> November – MA service – Sarah Byford and Dee Seabourne to be commissioned as Lay leaders and Pastoral Assistants in Raglan.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day Service - 10:15am

**Christmas Services:** Please check the church noticeboards for the detailed list of services and watch out for:

**2nd and 3rd December** - Lantern making to support the Usk Town Christmas Celebrations

**3rd December** - Community Carols at 5pm before town lantern parade

**17th December**- Carol Service – 6pm

**24th December**

- Holy Eucharist at 8am

- Crib Service at 4pm

- Midnight Mass at 11:30pm

**25<sup>th</sup> December** - No service



The Open the Book team preparing for the September production in school. Find out more on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October when the team will be performing during the service at 10:30am.

#### Harvest followed by Branwen and Gwyn's Walk



## ECO Group

The church eco group held a meeting last week at which it was agreed that we should apply for the Eco Church Silver Award – Watch this space to see if we have been successful!

Please enjoy the peace of the churchyard, take note of the bird boxes and the bug hotels produced by the children. We ask that all those using our church building respect our eco ethos and use our crockery (not disposables), use only Fair-Trade products and recycle or reuse any waste.



## St Mary's Social Team

Our social events seem to be going from strength to strength. We started the year with Lent Lunch followed by our annual Strawberry Tea all were very well attended and this year we have made well over a £1000 in funds and donations for our Church of St Mary's, The Usk Food Kitchen, St David's Hospice, The Little Hill Farm Growing Project.

Our Harvest Lunch on 17th September was another outstanding success. Serving and preparing nearly 50 meals was no mean feat but we pulled it off fairly well and due to the generosity of those attending, donations and a raffle we raised enough money to give £100 to Raven House and £100 to Fair Trade and for the remaining £407 to be put towards the new sound and lighting systems.

I think it is fair to say everyone who came enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and friendship. There were a lot of happy faces and laughter in the Hall. Bill Savage led us with Grace and after a meal of Harvest Loaf, Ham, Quiche and Salad followed by Apple Tart & Custard or Trifle (some of us had both!) Ruth Prince gave us a very informative talk on the work of Fair-Trade Organisation.

Dee Seabourne

## Wool and Wellness

Many thanks to the ladies of **St Mary's Church Knitting Group** who have been generous with their time knitting woolly hats for The Farming Community Network. FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity that aims to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people in farming, providing support at times of difficulty and change.

These hats will be displayed at the Monmouthshire Rural Support Centre at the Livestock market, and offered to anyone visiting the centre who is in need of some warmth as they work in all weathers in the coming winter.

*Sarah Byford – FCN Volunteer*



## Check your Cheques.....

If you want to make a donation to St Marys by cheque, then please make your cheque payable to "Usk Vicar and Churchwardens". Our bank, unbeknown to us have recently changed their procedures and will only accept cheques payable to this account name. This follows years of accepting cheques to various variations of St Marys Church. We now also have to pay bank charges on each cheque.

Preferably, if you have access to online banking, then please make donations using the following details:

Account Name: Usk Vicar and Churchwardens

Sort Code: 40-45-07

Account Number: 50829730