

St Laurence, Upton.

St Laurence, Upton by Julie James.

Surprisingly the last time I wrote there was no mention of infrared heating Chandeliers, so, there is a lot of catching up to do. On 27th November '24 an email arrived announcing: a new first come, first served Boiler Hardship Fund by the national Church. This was offering 25 churches across the country a chance to receive at least £25,000 (plus additional amount depending on parish deprivation stats) to cover the difference in cost between a replacement gas/oil boiler and a low-carbon heating alternative to aim towards Net Zero Carbon.



Chandeliers in a similar church.

With calculator in hand St Laurence's applied and have won a grant of £45,000 which enables us to come off the gas and look to infrared, discovered no less by William Herschel. With the money previously set aside for the gas boiler along with some assets held by the Parish, we should be able to start the installation before Christmas. There are a few provisos to be ironed out regarding the Faculty, but we are ready to put up the public notice, so fingers crossed. Keep up to date on our website.

Looking ahead.

Talking of schedules, many thanks to our FUNdraisers and Occupational Therapy team of fruit pickers, choppers and wrappers. We are up and ready for Eton Action Fair on 20th September and working towards Christmas. Before this, we have **Heritage Open Days** with church tours on Sundays 14th and 21st September 3.00 – 5.00pm. Being Heritage season, we also look forward to hearing our Exhibition Co-ordinator in residence, Richard Emerson, who will be doing a Herschel presentation on Monday 15th September at the monthly **U3A** afternoon to which you are all most welcome 2.00 – 4.00pm.

We will have a **Foodbank collection** at our Harvest Service which is always gratefully received. The service is followed by our lunch which rather than shepherd's pie will follow the theme of Oktoberfest (35yrs of German Unity). With four or five of our congregation having German links we hope it will be a joint effort and full of Oompah.

St Laurence's **Dedication and Gift Day** will be on Sunday 30th November followed by Christmas Lunch. (Book in church or call 01753 532425).



SANTA'S SPECIAL

Saturday 15th November
St Laurence's 11am - 2.30pm
(Upton Court Road, SL3 7LS)

THE ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS GOODIES

Preserves, Cakes, Christmas Craft and Gifts, Tombola, Raffle and lots more. Suitable for all the family, gifts for 0–99 years. Buy our famed home-made Preserves and Cakes while stocks last. Christmas Crafts and Gifts to buy. Refreshments available.

Upton-cum-Chalvey Extra

News and views from our team churches

Walsingham

Earlier in the summer our long-planned pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham finally took place. A small group from this parish spent a weekend at the shrine in Norfolk, joining friends from Sunbury since this was our first visit for some time. We enjoyed three days of prayer and worship, candle-lit devotions, intercession for friends, rest, quietness, country air, seaside walks, train rides, ice cream, pub lunches and laughter. For as well as housing the miraculously built Holy House with its image of Our Lady, Stations of the Cross and numerous chapels, the Shrine also contains shops, a restaurant and a bar.

Walsingham is a profoundly spiritual place where for centuries Christians have experienced the renewal of faith, and sometimes physical healing, but it is also a very human place where friendships are made and it's ok to share a joke. A pilgrimage is not meant to be like a strict, silent retreat and we don't go to Walsingham to suffer. (The food and accommodation are much better than they used to be.)

This mixture of spirituality and conviviality is deliberate. In the womb of Mary, God and humanity were brought together, showing us that true holiness and ordinary human life with its joys and pleasures are not in opposition. The pilgrimage package, *as a whole*, expresses the Shrine's purpose: to affirm and celebrate the mystery of the incarnation which took place in the Virgin Mary. Prayer and laughter together proclaim that real divinity and real humanity, real spirit and real flesh were joined in the womb of Blessed Mary and have belonged together ever since.



Another pilgrimage is planned for the third weekend in July next year. We have applied for a grant to cover the cost of a coach so the price should be significantly lower next time. You can find out more about the shrine at: www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk. Come and join us.

Mulling it Over is a Bible study which has been running in the parish for over 8 yrs; doesn't time fly! The group meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday at 1.30pm in St Lawrence. Informal chat over a cuppa is followed by an interactive study in which members are encouraged to participate. Whilst some like just to listen, others are happy to read the Bible passages out loud for us, and there is usually a lively discussion on Scripture, the context in which it was written and how we view Scripture in the context of our own lives.

We close with prayer and intercession at 3.30pm.

We have only two rules - that everyone is made welcome, and secondly that everyone's opinion or question is treated with respect. There's always room for others, so if you think you might like to join us, please do. We may be able to help with transport. More info from Revd Linda.

Harvest Sunday across our churches will be 5th October this year.

St. Mary's, Slough.



Story Tent Slough

On what were probably the hottest days of the year St. Marys welcomed 120 Year 5 children from local schools to take part in Story Tent Slough.

Within each tent a volunteer from one of six faiths told a story from their tradition and the children were encouraged to listen and question in a way that put into practice what they had learned that morning about the values of respect, openness and curiosity, 'Values that ROC!' Each group had the opportunity to move to three different tents. Later they later were able to work with Art Beyond Belief and sixth form students from Slough and Eton CofE Business and Enterprise College to create artwork which expressed their experience to share when they got back to school

Many months of planning went into creating the project which was an initiative of **Slough Faith Partnership** in conjunction with **Art Beyond Belief** and **St Mary's**. It was supported by **Slough Borough Council**, **Slough Children First**, **Slough Faiths Standing Together**, **Slough and Eton School** and **Slough Youth Parliament**. We were helped with a small grant from the Diocese and the whole event was made possible because of volunteers from Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian and Humanist communities.

Dr. Ann Mosley, who is the founder and Creator of Story Tent led the project and training. She believes that by hearing stories from a variety of cultures and traditions the children can engage in genuine dialogue to

help bring communities closer together. The event encourages understanding and friendship across different cultures and faiths through the medium of story and fits Slough perfectly.

Story Tent Slough 2026 is already being planned.

Start the Week

Our Toddler Group restarts this month. We are open every Monday morning 9.30-11.00 am. Everyone is welcome. Donation £1 per family including refreshments.

East meets West concert.

East meets West in this concert of music celebrating Western and Indian classical traditions. Music including Mozart, Schubert, Bollywood, & new works for String Quartet & Tabla, come along to our free concert! Book tickets via QR code on the poster.



St Peter, Chalvey.



St Peter's Church - built 1861 - a pillar of the village community back then and is still a notable landmark today. Next year will be a big year for St Peter's with our 165-year anniversary and now is the time, collectively, to start organising to celebrate the history and staying power of this wonderful church.

Looking back.

What a year it's been, with the arrival of a new vicar, Fr. Andrew, who we share with Slough & Eton CofE Academy, also in the village of Chalvey. Fr. Andrew has established himself and, in his year since arriving has overseen a lot of activities including funerals, weddings and christenings, along with our own fundraising and fete activities. The church is thankful for the regular income from the Romanian partnership that has been establish over the last two years. We have accommodated their time slot in sharing the church without detriment to our congregation, which is currently working well. The financial income means security in our contribution to the Parish share.

Sunday School

We are currently working to re-establish our Children's Sunday School, which at one time was very buoyant and had good numbers. However those small children back then have grown into fine young adults, who have moved onto university and greater ventures. Our Sunday School teacher has also relocated, so finding a suitable replacement

is underway and work is being done to boost the attendance of children for Sunday School to be held again on the premises.

Vestry Development

In the last Pathways edition, we talked about the destruction of the church hall (2004). Whilst the church hall is missed, it has not dampened the desire to extend the existing vestry to accommodate functions that we know are required in this community.

As with all churches the survival is down to the congregation who regularly attend Sunday or the mid-week service each week and those volunteers, who do so much work behind the scenes in administration, communication and maintenance of the building. The gardens are currently neat and tidy and have been enhanced with the planting of 10 new fruit trees in the grounds, thanks to a donation from Slough Environmental Action; this contributes to our efforts of becoming an Eco-Church.

Margaret Inniss

Many will remember fondly Margaret Inniss who was very much part of life at St Peter's as well as someone who contributed in all sorts of ways to life in Slough, and Chalvey in particular. Margaret settled with her husband, Earl, in Chalvey. As well as serving as treasurer at St Peter's over the years, Margaret chaired the Chalvey Community Forum and with her background as a horticulturalist, was also chair of Slough in Bloom, making our town more beautiful and cared for. Although Margaret moved from her home in the Crescent to Langley, Chalvey continued to matter to her. A crowd of friends and congregation members, past and present, joined family members at St Peter's on 8th August to give thanks for Margaret's life. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret's son, Simon and his family.