

Dear Friend,

30 August 2023

As the summer draws to a close, September sees something of a fresh start in our church life. There are a lot of exciting events planned in church this month. I want to let you know what is happening and invite you to join in. As ever if you would rather not receive these updates, simply let me know.

10th September 10am. This is St Mary's Patronal Festival celebrating The Blessed Virgin Mary. The service starts at 10am and we will worship with friends from St Peter's Chalvey and St Laurence Upton. We will also be joined by friends from Fostering Slough - appropriate guests for a service honouring the Mother of Jesus.

17th September 9.30am Eucharist followed by Soup and Samosa lunch. Like many churches around the country St Mary's is taking stock after the years of Covid lockdowns. In our worship and over lunch I will outline some of our plans for the future. This will not be an appeal for money but rather sharing a strategy for renewal, prayer and planning.

24th September 9.30am Harvest Festival. A traditional celebration in support of Slough Foodbank. Please bring foodstuffs that can be stored and distributed through the year.

On all other Sundays our usual pattern continues: Sung Eucharist at 9.30am and Evensong, a quiet prayer service, at 6.30pm.

I hope to see you at some or all of our worship and especially for lunch on the 17th. If you have any questions or would simply like a chat, simply send me an email. You can also keep up to date on developments through our website stmarys-slough.org.uk or our Facebook page, [StMarysChurchSlough](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchSlough).

Finally let me end with a prayer which we will use on the 17th.

God of mercies,
your only Son, while hanging on the cross,
appointed the Blessed Virgin Mary, his mother,
to be our mother also.

Like her, and under her loving care,
may your church grow day by day,
rejoice in the holiness of its children,
and draw the peoples of the earth to your saving love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect for Mary, Mother of the Mission of the Church.)

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