

# Tidings

May 2023



## A coronation for us all

The majority of people in our country are eagerly looking forward to the coronation ceremony of King Charles III. It will be broadcast widely, not only in this country but all over the world. We will also screen the service live in the church.

The coronation regalia such as the sovereign's crown with diamonds and sapphires, the beautifully ornate sceptre and the gold orb, are symbols of the power of the monarch. And as artefacts they speak of great wealth.

During her long reign the late Queen Elizabeth was very much aware that these precious and expensive regalia were not the foundation of her authority. I would be surprised if King Charles didn't think like his

mother. Monarchs and leaders in democratic countries do not build their authority

on symbols of wealth, power and title that they receive at ceremonies, but on their generous serving.

At St Mary's Singers' Music for Good Friday concert last month



THE  
CORONATION  
KING CHARLES  
III  
2023



a poem was read about Jesus' coronation. Jesus' regalia of his Kingship are a crown of thorns, a timber throne on which he was

hung to die and the royal road he followed was a path of suffering. Jesus' Kingship and the way he fulfilled it is, for a genuine leader, the ultimate example and inspiration for their leadership.

But on what symbols do you build your life? Are they material objects such as property, possession and money? Or is it rather something like a kettle that becomes the symbol of your hospitality, or washing up liquid and a cloth as tokens of your caring service? What is it that symbolises your generous serving? Is it a great heart for your neighbour, hands that are sore from being always ready to help and do the dirty work, a back that hurts from helpful stooping and lifting, ears that never tire of listening, a mouth that speaks words of comfort and eyes that see the need of others, blistered feet that never stop walking to bring relief?

Let us crown ourselves with the love and compassion that we see in Jesus (and in some genuine leaders) and use the gifts that we have received as the regalia for use in service of others.

*Erin*



To find out more about events and services at St Mary's, Wivenhoe visit  
[www.stmaryswivenhoe.org](http://www.stmaryswivenhoe.org)

# Upcoming events and services . . .

## Services in the church

### Tuesday 2 May

**10.00am** House Communion at Ann's and Duncan's at River Lodge, West Street

### Wednesday 3 May

**7.07pm** Midweek reflection

### Sunday 7 May

**8.00am** Holy Communion

**10.30am** Coronation weekend service

### Wednesday 10 May

**7.07pm** Midweek reflection

### Sunday 14 May

**10.30am** Family Eucharist with Sunday Club

### Wednesday 17 May

**7.07pm** Midweek reflection

### Thursday 18 May

**8.00pm** Eucharist for Ascension

### Sunday 21 May

**8.00am** Holy Communion

**10.30am** Matins with Sunday Club

### Wednesday 24 May

**7.07pm** Midweek reflection

### Sunday 28 May

**10.30am** Family Eucharist with Sunday Club

### Wednesday 31 May

**7.07pm** Midweek reflection

## This month's specials

### Every Thursday

**2.30pm until 4.30pm:** The Friendly Club

### Tuesday 2 May

**7.00pm** The Way youth group

### Saturday 6 May

**10.15am–1.15pm** Live screening of King Charles III Coronation

**1.15pm–3.00pm** Picnic (bring your own), hot and soft drinks provided

### Sunday 14 May

**12 noon–1.00pm** Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**1.00pm–4.30pm** Café Chill

### Tuesday 16 May

**7.00pm** The Way youth group

### Saturday 20 May – Sunday 21 May

### Open Gardens Weekend

### Friday 26 May

**7.30pm** Concert by Encore

### Sunday 28 May

**12 noon–1.00pm** Churches Together Pentecost celebration

## The Christian Calendar

### Monday 1 May

Philip and James, Apostles

### Monday 8 May

Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, 1417

### Thursday 18 May

Ascension Day

### Sunday 28 May

Pentecost – Whit Sunday

### Wednesday 31 May

The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

## Recent family news

### Wedding

### Saturday 29 April

Tom Kane and Phillipa Grimes

Congratulations to Phillipa and Tom. May your marriage be blessed by God.

### Funeral at St Mary's

### Tuesday 25 April

Bryn Evans

We give thanks for all the good we have seen in Bryn and pray for his family and friends in their loss.

# Easter for everyone!

The Easter activities for children which took place on Easter Saturday proved a great success, as these pictures show.

Teresa Warren (pictured with husband Mike) and her team of helpers were kept busy as youngsters ranging from



four to 11 – together with their parents and friends – tried their hands at all sorts of tasks.

And of course, the highlight of the afternoon was the distribution of Easter eggs!



# Cakes a great success!

Pictured here are fundraisers Grace and Lucy who between them collected £48.20 from selling cupcakes at St Mary's.



The girls had to raise money for charity as part of their community badge for Brownies.

We have it on good authority that the cakes were delicious!

## Find out how St Mary's works!

St Mary's annual parochial church meeting is taking place on Sunday 14 May at 12.00 noon in church, when the election of churchwardens and parochial church council members will take place, as well as the appointment of the independent examiner.

St Mary's secretary, Bonnie Hill, explained: "The meeting is not a tedious affair at all, but a chance to hear an overview from Erwin Lammens about the events during 2022.

"There will also be a chance to see a very short presentation on screen about the impact that the Annexe and re-ordered nave have made on the life of St Mary's."

The Annual Report for 2022 is available in hard copy from church or the church website via the contact/parochial church council tab.

Bonnie added: "All residents of Wivenhoe are welcome to attend the meeting, but only those on the parish electoral roll may vote on matters put before the meeting."

"Unfortunately the cut-off date for those being added to the electoral roll was 25 April, but please don't let that put you off from coming; it will be time well spent."

The process of how to be added to the electoral roll will be described in a future issue of Tidings for those who are interested in having a vote.



# Big Ted's visit will be hard to beat!

St Mary's receives visits from people all over the country and even beyond. However, one of the more unusual visitors recently was a very attractive teddy bear, accompanied by his Auntie Fiona and Uncle Les.

As former roving ambassador for St Mary's Church in Plumtree, Nottinghamshire, Ted's mission is to visit all churches dedicated to St Mary. Verger Mary Jakens was delighted to welcome him to St Mary's when he popped in a few weeks ago.

Ted said: "I had a lovely holiday and visited 19 St Mary's churches in Essex and Suffolk, 'tho it was a bit rainy – which I don't like 'cos it plays havoc with my splendid fur!"

"Wivenhoe was the last St Mary's that



I visited and was my 437th altogether. I was lucky to be able to have a look inside as well."

"I like to sit on fonts when I can – I specially like fonts with smooth tops like yours."

Ted, who now lives in Leicestershire, was kind enough to leave his card – [www.bigtedonline.uk](http://www.bigtedonline.uk) – and a message in St Mary's visitors' book.

"It was good timing that I was in the church when Big Ted arrived," added Mary.

It is clear that Big Ted is having great fun, but what about Auntie Fiona and Uncle Les?

"We really wish we hadn't started this – there are far too many St Mary's churches around the country, and Wales. But it gets us out and about!" said Fiona.

## Greetings from Namalemba

Pictured here are Uncle Charles and the wider family in Namalemba, which is twinned with St Mary's.

Rosemary Murchie keeps in regular contact with them and is pleased to report that the year is progressing well for them – despite a recent lack of rain the weather is looking promising and the crops are still good.



Chickens are part of the sustainable project and subject to prices dropping, will soon be affordable.

Rosemary said: "Rachel and Livingstone send their love and blessings to their many Wivenhoe friends, as do Charles, Betty Kakaya and Betty Mafuko."



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# Wivenhoe Open Gardens 2023 by Jane Stanway

It's back, after a three-year break!

We are delighted to be holding this very popular community event over the weekend of 20–21 May.

## Music for all at St Mary's

Pictured here during the final applause at the Music for Good Friday concert are St Mary's Singers, with soloists Hilary Brunning, Lucy Crocker and Barnaby Crocker, director Graham Wadley and organist and pianist John Rippin.

St Mary's Wivenhoe Music Society is holding its second concert this year on Friday 26 May at 7.30pm and features the Encore singing group. They will be singing numbers from well-known musicals.

Tickets will be £8, including a glass of wine or soft drink. They will be available after 1 May at Wivenhoe Bookshop and on the Internet via TicketSource.



## High water in May 2023

<b>1st</b>	<b>10:07</b>	<b>22:17</b>
2nd	10:57	23:07
<b>3rd</b>	<b>11:39</b>	<b>23:50</b>
4th	12:17	*****
<b>5th</b>	<b>00:30</b>	<b>12:54</b>
6th	01:09	13:32 *
<b>7th</b>	<b>01:49</b> *	<b>14:11</b> *
8th	02:30 *	14:34
<b>9th</b>	<b>03:12</b> *	<b>15:33</b>
10th	03:57	16:15
<b>11th</b>	<b>04:40</b>	<b>17:03</b>
12th	05:42	18:03
<b>13th</b>	<b>06:50</b>	<b>19:16</b>
14th	08:09	20:31
<b>15th</b>	<b>09:24</b>	<b>21:44</b>
16th	10:29	22:48
<b>17th</b>	<b>11:24</b>	<b>23:42</b>
18th	12:12	*****
<b>19th</b>	<b>00:28</b> *	<b>12:55</b>
20th	01:10	13:35
<b>21st</b>	<b>01:49</b>	<b>14:12</b>
22nd	02:26	14:47
<b>23rd</b>	<b>03:03</b>	<b>15:21</b>
24th	03:42	15:55
<b>25th</b>	<b>04:21</b>	<b>16:31</b>
26th	05:03	17:12
<b>27th</b>	<b>05:51</b>	<b>18:05</b>
28th	06:57	19:20
<b>29th</b>	<b>08:11</b>	<b>20:28</b>
30th	09:12	21:26
<b>31st</b>	<b>10:05</b>	<b>22:18</b>

\* denotes tides over 4m (at Harwich)

More than 20 gardens will be opening and there will be refreshments and plant sales. Tickets and maps covering both days will be available from Wivenhoe Bookshop and Town & Country Estate Agents, Vine Parade, costing just £5 each. Accompanied children under 14 go free.

This event is organised jointly by St Mary's Church in aid of the fabric of the church and by the Wivenhoe Society towards local causes chosen by the society.



## St Mary's joins in No Mow May

Spring is here – and the sound of lawnmowers and the smell of mown grass bring joy to our hearts after the long, dreary winter.

However, a temporary halt to this is about to be put into place at St Mary's as Wivenhoe Town Council, Wivenhoe churches and other local groups support the national campaign, No Mow May.

It aims to encourage people not to mow their lawns until the end of May in order to boost the flowers, and nectar, available to pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and moths.

Leading charity Plantlife said: "The number of people not mowing their lawns is increasing after a successful campaign to keep gardens wild."

"Just eight dandelion flowers may produce enough nectar sugar to meet an adult bumblebee's baseline energy needs."

After May, people with gardens and lawns are asked to mow less throughout the summer and preferably leave at least part of their garden untouched.

As many readers will know, St Mary's always leaves a significant part of the churchyard undisturbed to allow wildlife to flourish and buzz.

So if you wonder why St Mary's churchyard might be looking a bit unkempt this month, you now know that Wivenhoe churches are playing their part in supporting the natural habitat.

You might just want to play your part at home too!

## St Mary's contact details

### Rector

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### Treasurer

#### Douglas McCormick

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Because of limited space, please refer to past issues of Tidings or St Mary's website for all other contact details.

St Mary's registered charity 1165660

## And finally ...

### A gardener's prayer

at the occasion of Wivenhoe Open Gardens weekend

Creating and sustaining God, thank you for our hands and the tools we use to till the soil, to plant the seeds and bulbs, to weed our gardens and allotments. May our efforts provide food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and gardens of calm in our busy world.