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## From the Wardens

Over the first part of this year, we have been continuing to look at what we do and how we can improve what we do as the "praying heart of Pype Hayes" to reach out to our community. Following on from last year's Leading Your Church into Growth course that the leaders attended, we have tried to be more intentional in reaching out to the contacts we have and encouraging our members to look for and expect growth in the church.

The Breakfast Services, which we started last year, have been continuing on the first Sunday of each month and have been a great success, seeing a number of new people attending. These informal times are a great introduction to what St Mary's is best at; making people welcome. It is a joy to see so many different people joining together in an informal time of worship and fellowship with such a wide age range.

On Tuesday evenings, we have recently been running a Craft Group in St Mary's Vestry. This was originally started to make craft items to sell at the Church Fairs but has developed into a social group in its own right. On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, we have a Tea Dance in the Church Hall; tickets are available from the Church Office or the Social Team. Another social event planned for this year will be the Autumn Fair on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, with a Harvest and Scarecrow theme; no tickets required, but put it in your diary.

Later this year, there will be a Confirmation Service and we already have a number of new members who have expressed an interest in this. As part of the preparation for this, we are presenting a Christian basics course on a Tuesday evening from June 20<sup>th</sup> for six weeks. This follows the "Start!" Course syllabus, which is part of "Leading Your Church into Growth" and is for anyone who wants to investigate what the Christian Faith is all about. We have a number of new members who have said they would like to join the course but there is room for more. It will be a fairly relaxed and informal course with time for investigating what the bible says and the opportunity to raise ques-

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tions about what we believe. Nigel will be running a separate Confirmation Course later in the year, which will deal specifically with confirmation. We now have our new chairs in the Church Hall and they have been welcomed by the congregation as they are much more comfortable than the old folding chairs. As part of the continuing renovation of the Church Hall, we are now looking at improving some of the facilities and redecorating the inside of the Hall to make it more welcoming for visitors and Hall users.

Recently, Nigel and Chris had the honour of taking the funeral of Ken Davis, Phil's father, who had been very ill for some time but insisted on coming to St Mary's to spend time with us in his final days. He arrived with his wife, Carol, and Phil at one of our Breakfast Services and so there was the opportunity for many in the congregation to spend time with him.

We value your continued prayers for us, the people at St Mary's and particularly for the leaders.



**Paul Cockrill & Lynda Payant**

### St Mary's Breakfast Services

**Summer  
Dates:  
4<sup>th</sup> June;  
2<sup>nd</sup> July**



**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month  
10 am for breakfast  
followed by an informal time together.**

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## NEWS FROM

# St Mary's Pype Hayes



**Come and Go to Love and Serve the Lord**

St Mary's Pype Hayes 

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## Summer 2017

## From Nigel

As the summer begins to approach us, there are three things we are going to be looking at here at St Mary's. On a Sunday Morning, through June and July, we are going to be preaching, and reflecting in our Cell Groups, on the book of Romans. I see it like a walk down a country lane in the Spring, and having the wisdom to know which flower to pick. So at the end of this series on Romans, we will have covered some but not all of the big themes that will enable us to be followers of Jesus. Along side that, we are running a Start Course, led by two members of the congregation. It is an opportunity for people who are new to the Christian faith to explore what our faith means to us. The third thing leads on from the Start course, to our confirmation service with Bishop David in September. On 10<sup>th</sup> Sept we will join St Mark's Stockland Green for a service to celebrate new faith in Jesus being lived out in our parishes. Finally, I have had the privilege and the permission from Bishop David to start an MA course in Christian Spirituality. I am praying that that will continue to help me to grow and mature in my faith as a follower of Jesus. And hopefully, the same hope we have in Romans, some of this will spill into my life as a pastor and vicar here in Pype Hayes.

Nigel

**Rev'd Nigel Traynor,  
Vicar, St Mary's Pype  
Hayes  
& Area Dean of Aston  
Deanery**



## Reader's Experience of a Silent Retreat

'Silent Retreat,' 'Silent Retreat,' 'Silent Retreat,' - words coming from three different sources, - all wise sources - in recent months. I tried to ignore them. How could I possibly exist surrounded by silence? Then at a conference at Lee Abbey, the words came again. I shared all this with Nigel. We prayed about it and agreed that these were words from God. Having pursued the opportunities, I met with 23 others on a Friday afternoon in the beautiful accommodation and 9 acre grounds of Shallowford House.

At 8.45pm after a meal, very brief introductions and worship, 'SILENCE' fell on the whole site; no conversation, silence in our rooms and moving around the building, silence at meals until Sunday at 4.00pm, punctuated only with times of listening to Bible reflections and shared worship.

By Friday 9.30 pm I felt under house arrest, imprisoned in the silence of my room. I read for a while, then went to bed. Praying for silence, all I heard in my head was a cacophony of noise, the chaos of all to-do lists I had taken with me. At 2.30 am I got up, but where could I go? Opening my door and walking along the corridor with its creaky floorboards would disturb others' silence. I occupied myself for a while, earnestly praying for 'peace and quiet' in my head. At 4.30 am I went back to bed.

Breakfast at 8.30 am revealed what was to be both one of the major challenges but also spiritually enriching moments of the retreat- silent meal times, defying all the rules of social etiquette - became a time to be fed spiritually and physically. The silence was beginning to speak to me. A labyrinth experience brought me more understanding, in pictures, emotions and words. I also chose to participate in an art workshop which surprised me.

Reflecting on the whole experience, I realised that part of the initial struggle of settling into total silence was the need to slow down my general pace of life and de-clutter my mind. The bigger revelation was identifying that 'silence,' the enemy with whom I struggle at home alone, had become a blessing to me in community. Only by changing some lifelong habits can I be released from the chains of this enemy at home. Would I repeat the experience? Most certainly; better prepared and possibly open to a longer retreat.

Chris Barnsley, Reader

## Tea Dance



- Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 3 – 5 pm
- Afternoon Tea, Dancing, Raffle, Singing by the Singularity Quartet
- £5 per person – tickets available from the Social Team and the Office



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Have you seen our new website? Current info and all aspects of life at St Mary's are on it:  
[www.stmarysb24.org](http://www.stmarysb24.org)



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