

August 2025 Edition 114

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;"

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Beginning of a New Ministry Together

On 9th July 7.30 pm, Revd Joshva Raja was installed as a Vicar of St Marys, Cuddington. During the service he expressed deep gratitude to Bishop Paul for leading the service and to Archdeacon Martin, Area Dean Rosemary, Revd Maggie, churchwardens, PCC, and volunteers for their care and support. He gave heartfelt thanks to all who helped prepare the vicarage, church, and office, and to those representing the church and community. He acknowledged the presence of friends, colleagues, and family, especially his wife Rachel and children. Grateful for a warm welcome, he looks forward to listening, learning, and serving.



St Mary's Cuddington – A Church for Everyone!

As we look to the future of mission and ministry at St Mary's, we are invited to take part in a broader journey of vision and discernment alongside other churches in our Deanery and Diocese. We are encouraged to reflect on our life together, celebrate what God is already doing among us, and prayerfully discern what we are called to next. Our PCC had a conversation on these three themes and encouraged us to reach out to everyone.

Growing Disciples

This theme encourages us to deepen our faith and grow in confidence as followers of Christ. It's about nurturing a community where people can explore and share faith confidently, grow spiritually, share generously, support one another, and care for people of all ages.

Growing Diversity

This invites us to welcome and reflect the rich variety of age, culture, gender, and background present in our local community.

Growing Community

This theme encourages us to build deeper relationships across our wider neighbourhood – including schools, local organisations, and residents' groups.

Celebrate St Mary's life

It's important to recognise the vibrant life of St Mary's as it stands. Many wonderful ministries are already at work:

- **Sunday Club** runs every other week for children. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the use of *Roots* materials, we're engaging a good number of young children in meaningful ways.
- Our **Friday morning Toddler Group** provides a space for parents, grandparents, carers, and little ones to enjoy crafts, activities, and each other's company — reaching out beyond the church to the wider community.

- **Thursday afternoon socials** offer an open and informal time for people to connect over tea, coffee, biscuits, and shared activities.
- We hold **social and fundraising events** — like barbecues, quiz nights, and special gatherings — with the help of an active fundraising team.
- There are **women's and men's ministries**, offering breakfasts, dinners, walks, and talks for fellowship and encouragement.
- We participate in **ecumenical activities**, working closely with other churches and leaders across the community.
- Our **tennis and table tennis groups** have become spaces where we connect with people.
- The **St Mary's Walkers** group continues to meet and grow.
- We share regular reflections and updates through our **Listening Post** e-newsletter and are working to update our website and social media presence.

We support **local and global mission outreach**, staying connected to the wider church and world.

We are also blessed by a **team of Pastoral Assistants** who offer care and companionship to individuals and families in times of need. Our **choir** plays a vital role in our worship, and anyone with a love of singing is warmly welcomed.

Behind the scenes, many others volunteer in countless ways: Arranging flowers; Tending our gardens; Running Zoom and technology for services; Praying faithfully and serving joyfully. We give thanks for every single person who contributes — often quietly and consistently — to the life of this church.

Growing Together

As we plan for the future, we want to hear from **you**.

- Do you have an idea to share?
- Would you like to help shape one of the three strategic areas?

Could you offer your time or talents to support a new or existing ministry?

Emerging Priorities

Previously, we identified three areas of focus for the future:

- Re-launching and refreshing our house groups, with a deeper discipleship focus.
- **Exploring all-age services** and increasing children and youth participation in church life.
- **Strengthening our connections with the wider community** — especially schools, uniformed organisations, and residents' associations.

St Mary's warmly welcomes everyone. We remain open, inclusive, and committed to being a community in Christ where everyone feels they truly belong. So, let's keep talking, listening, discerning, and growing — together.

St Mary's Parish Team

August Services and Events

Sunday 3	08.00	Holy Communion (Common Prayer)
	09.30	Sung Communion
Monday 4	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Wednesday 6	10.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Sunday 10	09.30	Sung Communion
Sunday 17	09.30	Sung Communion
Thursday 21	14.30	Afternoon Club in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 24	09.30	Sung Communion
Sunday 31	09.30	Sung Communion
Monday 1 Sept	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Friday 5 Sept	10.00	Toddlers' Term Begins
Saturday 6 Sept	09.00	Men's Breakfast at Horton Golf Park
Sunday 7 Sept	08.00	Holy Communion (Common Prayer)
	09.30	Sung Communion
	12.00	Parish Barbecue

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am

Everyone is very welcome