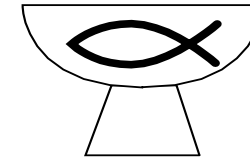


September 2021

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Rob Walker (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk>

Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.



They will soar on wings
like eagles;

they will run and
not grow
weary,



they will walk and
not be faint.



Isaiah 40: verse 31

Fr Alistair Writes:

After two lockdowns, a reduced liturgical programme, and one bout of enforced isolation, I doubt I am the only person in the country now looking at his waistline and wondering where it all came from... and how to lose it.

When we walked from Slough to Windsor (Dedworth actually) to join the climate justice walk (some of us walked...) I surprised myself by managing it. It was a delightful occasion, as adults relaxed afterwards and young people played, followed by a short act of open-air worship and a very powerful address from one of the walkers. I got extra exercise as I managed to leave my phone on a bench on the walk back, so had to jump on the bike (after walking eight miles!) and do a four mile bike ride to get it. Didn't seem to do much for my waistline, however.

Of course, that was just wishful thinking that one bout of exercise would do the job. The reality is that it will take consistency and application over a period. The same is true of our effort to restore the integrity of creation through raising and solving issues of climate justice... it will take a lot more than a walk to Windsor to bring about that change.

There's also a spiritual lesson there. A day of prayer and fasting, before going back to old ways, will not transform us into saints. Consistency and application in prayer and fasting, but also in sacramental participation through confession and Communion, will make us saints, but the important part of this is consistency and application. It is a process which takes a lifetime. The same is true of the life of our church overall. There are rumours that somebody is interested in becoming team rector; by the time this goes to print we might know whether these are rumours only or whether there is something in the rumour. But whoever that person is, however gifted, and holy, he or she alone will not transform our churches. This too needs consistency and application, on the part of all of us. By this I mean spiritual consistency and application. Our churches are no more than the sum of those of us who are its members, and their success or failure will reflect the success or failure of our spiritual selves.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

Mon 6th	5.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation and swearing in of Churchwardens (St James' Church, Gerrards Cross)
	8.00pm	St Peter's DCC Meeting (SP)
Tue 7th	6.30pm	St Peter's Dedication: - Evensong, followed by bring and share 160 years party (SP)
Wed 8th	7.30pm	St Mary's DCC Meeting (SM)
Fri 10th	2.00pm	National Heritage Open Day - church open until 4.00pm (SL)
Sat 11th	10.00am	Bucks Historic Churches Ride & Stride - St Laurence's open until 6.00pm
Sun 12th	3.00pm	National Heritage Open Day - Meet the Ward family; with refreshments. Church open until 5.00pm (SL)
Mon 13th	7.30pm	St Laurence's DCC meeting (SL)
Thu 16th	10.30am	National Heritage Open Day - church open until 12.30pm (SL)
Mon 20th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SL)

St Mary's News

Now we are slowly getting back to a more normal life it was good to see our congregation returning, even though a few were expecting a 10.00am start! Services during the week will be recommencing with Mass at 10.00am on Tuesday and 12.30pm on Wednesday. With the return to a more regular worship pattern we are hoping to encourage members of the congregation to join the rota for readers, sidesmen (welcomers) and serving team. If you can help please talk to Jean and Derek (Wardens) or Fr Alistair and Rev Linda or please sign up on the forms at the back of church.

We were pleased to welcome back Alcoholics Anonymous this week and expect to see their numbers grow in the coming weeks. Child Contact Centre are now able to resume their twice monthly sessions this week. So Saturday afternoons will soon become noisy and lively over the coming weeks.

We are hoping to re-start our Start the Week parent and toddler group when the schools return in September (Monday morning 9.30 – 11.00am). We are, however, very short of volunteers to get the room ready, make the coffee, chat to parents. Please let me know if this is something you feel you could help with. It is an outreach opportunity to meet the many parents and small children living in the numerous flats in the town centre, many of whom do not have English as a first language

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.

St Laurence's News

It's official, St Laurence's is getting its "mojo" back. It started with a very successful village fayre in West Coker, thanks to Julie and Allan, who raised £325 on homemade preserves. With your help we have stalls at Eton Action on 18th September and the following day at Maidenhead Duck Day at Boulter's Lock, put these dates in your diary.

Meanwhile Julie James has related some of the memorials inside the church with their corresponding graves in the churchyard. Investigating two small brass plaques in the chancel in memory of the Ward family, (not to be confused with the artist in our churchyard), we have discovered a wealth of information spanning the world to Fiji, Australia and the concentration camps of Bavaria in the First World War. St Laurence's has three existing graves to the family, one containing eight members, a pulpit, two stained-glass windows and 'Christ in Glory' in opus sectile in the chancel. This all adds up to a special presentation for our annual Heritage season on Sunday 12th September 3.00-5.00pm at St Laurence's, followed by Tea.

- ◇ **Tuesday 31st August: Autumn Airing 10am** – after so many months of inactivity St Laurence's can do with a spruce up. Volunteers required to clean and move chairs in preparation for:
- ◇ **Friday 10th September: Heritage Open Days: St L Open 2 – 4pm**
- ◇ **Saturday 11th September: Bucks Historic Churches Trust "Ride & Stride"** St Laurence's Open 10am – 6pm
- ◇ **Sunday 12th September: "Meet the Ward Family"** presentation + afternoon Tea 3.00 – 5.00pm
- ◇ **Saturday 18th September: Eton Action Fair: 11am – 4pm**
- ◇ **Sunday 19th September: Maidenhead Lions Duck Day: 1 – 5pm** at Boulter's Lock
- ◇ **Sunday 3rd October Harvest Festival** followed by **church lunch**
- ◇ **Saturday 20th November: Santa's Christmas Special : 11am – 2.30pm**

SIGN UP SHEETS IN CHURCH, MANY THANKS

Julie



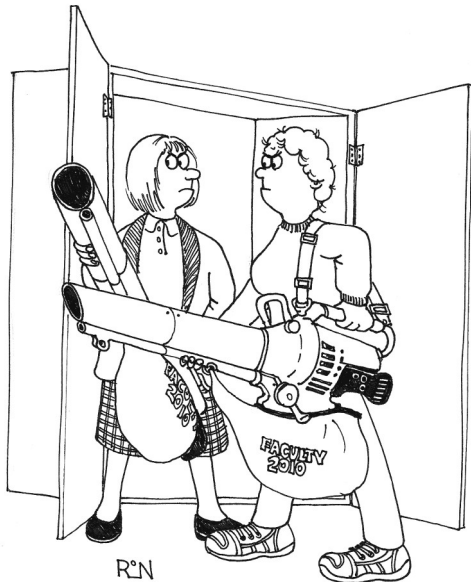
St Laurence's Preserves

If you would like to order some St Laurence's jam, marmalade, chutney or other item from the preserves stall, please call Allan on 01753 532425 and he will arrange collection or delivery in line with current Covid-19 regulations.

St Peter's News

No news this month.

Margaret



*Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle
required a faculty*

Our Return to Normal

Dear friends in Christ:

This note is to inform you about the next step in our return to a normal pattern of worship.

People will have different feelings about this. There are some of you who will wish to remain very cautious. There are some of you who will be anxious to return to singing, to receiving Holy Communion under both kinds, and to normal social contact. We are trying, as far as possible, to accommodate both positions, and those in between. It is up to you, however, to make this possible for us. So please read the following with care.

Seating:

At all churches there will be a "red" area. At St Laurence's this is the left side of the aisle, and at St Mary's this will be made up of the side pews, with additional seating at the back. In St Peter's the area is very small, by the sacrament chapel.

If you sit in these areas you will be able to maintain a social distance. We will expect you to wear a face covering if you sit in this area. We ask you to respect the space of those people who sit in this area, and not to participate in singing if you are in this area.

In other areas of the churches social distancing and face covering will not be expected. But you are asked not to enter the red areas.

Refreshments:

Refreshments will resume as before. You are under no pressure to participate.

Singing:

Singing at services will resume. You are reminded that Covid is spread by aerosol, which is why singing has been prohibited through the lockdown. You are asked not to sing if you are seated in the red area.

Holy Communion:

Holy Communion will be given in both kinds. However, there is no expectation that you receive Holy Communion from the chalice if you are uncomfortable with this, and your decision will be respected. However, we ask that you do not dip. Please either receive the chalice, or not.

At St Laurence's and St Mary's the ciborium will be kept covered. Clergy and eucharistic ministers will continue to wear face shields at distribution.

Liturgical books:

We will return to the use of shared liturgical books, as the risk of Covid transmission from these is small. If you wish, however, you may take a book home to keep for your personal use... but don't forget to bring it each time you attend!

The peace:

The peace will be shared in red areas as at present, without breaking social distance. If you are in another part of the church you may share the peace with your neighbour, but please do not move around the church.

Children's activities:

Sunday school will resume at St Peter's on 15th August, though will then go into a summer recess!

Our aim is that everyone should feel comfortable in our worship. However, if you are clinically vulnerable or unvaccinated it is more likely that you will be able to feel comfortable in St Mary's or St Laurence's, simply because of the limited size of St Peter's.

While no one can guarantee total protection from Covid, we believe we are taking reasonable steps to keep everyone as safe as possible and at the same time ensure everyone is able to return to a familiar form of communal worship. We are sure we can rely on your cooperation to help us to achieve this.

Fr Alistair

Be careful with Covid, urges Bishop of London

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has encouraged churches and individuals to continue to take precautions to protect the vulnerable from Covid -19.

“Many will welcome the possibilities now before us. However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore, our approach needs to be cautious and careful.

“Taking personal responsibility means taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be. Local church leaders know their communities and their own circumstances, and we will support them making local decisions to keep themselves and their community safe.”



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

Slough Foodbank

Slough Foodbank is in immediate need of additional trustees to join our board. We require a thriving board of trustees that ensures good governance, wise use of our resources and clear strategic direction in line with our Christian values of compassion and good stewardship

Please would you make known our urgent need for trustees to your congregation.

Slough Foodbank is a registered charity that operates in the Slough, and surrounding areas, to meet the needs of those experiencing a food crisis, whatever their faith or none. We aim to do this in a respectful and a compassionate manner, in line with the Christian values of those who instigated our foodbank back in 2010. Slough Foodbank has kept its operations going throughout the COVID crisis, thanks to our staff, our volunteers and the generosity of churches, individuals, groups and companies in our area. This meant that in 2020 we supplied 6,533, 3-day food parcels in our area.

As a charity, we are affiliated to the Trussell Trust, and together with them we long for the time when our foodbank will no longer be required. However, as Slough begins to emerge from the COVID crisis, it is clear that our food bank is still needed.

Some of your congregation may be interested in helping us in this way, but unsure what is required of a charity trustee. Commitment and enthusiasm for addressing food poverty in the Slough area is more critical than previous experience of being a trustee. We have a process for the approval of new trustees that will explore, with those expressing an interest, Slough Foodbank's expectations of its trustees, and how individual applicants might serve Slough Food bank as part of our trustee team.

If any of your congregation are interested, or would like to know what being a charity trustee for Slough Foodbank involves, would you please encourage them to contact our Slough Foodbank Manager using manager@slough.foodbank.org.uk, and title the email, "Trustee Interest".

Thank you for your support, and please continue to remember the work of our foodbank in your prayers.

Tom Batt (Chair of Slough Foodbank Trustees)

The Fenland Ark

The Fens consists of the marshy region in Eastern England in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

In 1896 people couldn't get to church as farms in this area were so far apart and very isolated from each other. So it was decided to use a movable church so they could attend services. They used vans which looked exactly the same as olden day Gypsy Wagons. These were called Church Army Vans. A Revd George Broke decided to have a punt barge built for the water and use it for his church and home. It cost £70 in all and he paid for it out of his own pocket. It was completed in 1897. The Floating Mission Church was named "The Fenland Ark"

The Archdeacon of Huntingdon visited and conducted the Ceremony of Dedication. It had two flags instead of bells and people could see them from a great distance. This service had a congregation of about 35 people, some in the packed church boat and others outside on the banks to hear the service.

The barge was about 30 feet long and nine feet wide. There was a small altar and a miniature table used for the services plus a lantern used for light. It also had windows to open so the congregation on the banks could hear the service.

On Easter morning there were only four people but in the late afternoon it was packed and five baptisms took place.

Revd Broke took his church to different areas every week so all the people could have a chance of finally having a church service to attend. The church was pulled by a horse. In the week there were Bible classes and even needle work with the girls. In the winter fewer people attended as some had many miles to walk.

After a few years, as time went on, fewer people attended and sometimes no people came at all. Revd Broke's health was declining too, so it was decided in 1907 to end the floating church as the boat itself was in a bad condition after all this time. He sold it for £5. The furniture went to the vicarage and some of it still survives. The small choir benches are in Holme village church and the small reading desk is in St Mary Magdalene Church in Stilton, Cambridgeshire. There is a plaque on it which reads: "This reading desk is from The Floating Church and was pulled by horse on the river between Holme and Ramsey 1900."

Alice Sanders

Faithful to Scripture, Faithful to Science: Alister McGrath on science and Christian faith

Alister McGrath is well-known as a theologian, but he started out as a scientist. After becoming a Christian as a student, he wanted to learn about his new faith so he studied theology at the same time as completing his PhD in molecular biophysics. He has not lost touch with science, but has continued to write and speak about how science and Christian faith work together. In this extract from a recently released interview, he shares his experience of being a scientist and a Christian.

“I think my most vivid experience of wonder took place in the 1970's when I was on vacation in Iran. We were travelling on a bus in the middle of the night because it wasn't hot then, and the bus broke down. We found ourselves in the middle of this solemn black desert, and the night sky shone with a brilliance like I had never seen before. That just overwhelmed me, it made me think there is something really wonderful here.

“Now, I was a Christian by that time and I knew how Christianity could answer that but it just struck me, that sense of wonder has two possible outcomes. One is science - this universe is wonderful, what's it all about? But of course, it is also about religion, the deeper levels of things that science can't really engage. I think one of the things I have discovered over time is that maybe this sense of wonder both opens the gateway to science and to faith, and that those two together are able to answer questions which on their own they simply couldn't.

“I think science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer - they transcend its capacities to answer, and you might think of non-empirical questions like, ‘Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? What is good and how do I live a good life?’

“These are real questions and they're good questions but they're not scientific questions. And the psychologists tell us that we really need answers to those questions if we are to lead a fulfilled human existence. You find some scientists who say, ‘Well because science can't answer them there are no answers to be given’, but actually most realise that there are answers waiting to be discovered - it's just that science can't deliver them.

“Science fills in part of a big picture but there are parts of the picture you have to fill in from somewhere else. Science is part of the answer but only part, and faith supplements it, giving us a vision of life that is exciting and reliable, and also something that we can inhabit meaningfully.”

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz



On the perils of taking a wedding

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony. (Which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...

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Climate Sunday is this month

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

Canon Paul Hardingham

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the October issue by **Sunday 12th September** at the latest!

Dave

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Kings 1: 5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother
You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



Long live King Solomon!

At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



What's going on?

David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

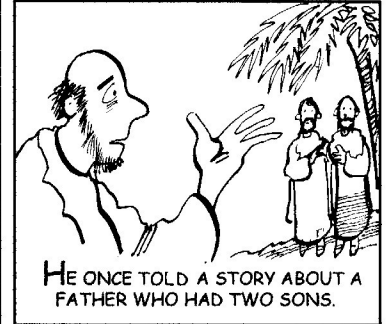
If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.



The tale of the Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

THE FATHER WENT TO HIS OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

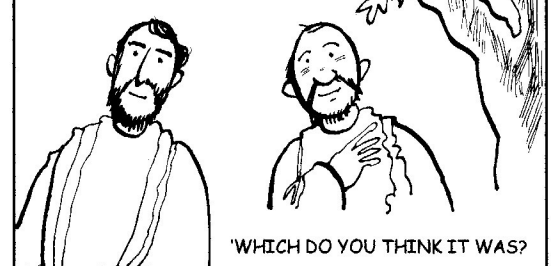


'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

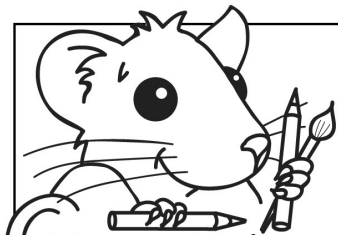
...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?



Mouse Makes

Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land. God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her.

She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry." Elijah said, "Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!

E M P T Y Z B A K E D
 M I W C H A N D F U L
 F L A I L R B R E A D
 L I T T L E L I J A H
 K O V E Y O P I N Z T D N
 J U E R Y R H J K M E A E
 U R F E E D A W M A N Y V
 G W U A J S T I C K S S E
 U E L T A E H D I E G O R
 N L Z R N D O I L O N
 T U G A T E W O R D R

Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
 STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
 OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
 DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch.

OR

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.

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SERVICES IN THE PARISH from 15th AUGUST

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday:	9.30am	Family Eucharist with children's groups.
	6.30pm	Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)
Tuesday:	10.00am	Eucharist
Wednesday:	12.30pm	Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday:	11.00am	Family Eucharist with children's group.
Thursday:	10.00am	Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday:	9.30am	Family Eucharist with children's groups.
Wednesday:	9.30am	Holy Communion

Websites:

<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk>