

## St Mary's Parish Church A Welcoming Community

All parishioners, their families and visitors receive a warm welcome. We hold a variety of services including many in modern language but some in traditional language. We have a robed choir and an all-age band. Refreshments are served after our 9.30am service. Our Family Service offers worship for all ages and is usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Our Taizé evening service on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month is a time of gentle reflection and quiet music.

*St Mary's provides a focal point for our parish community.*



*We still worship in the largest and most beautiful building in the parish, created for that purpose 200 years ago.*

### A Worshipping Community

Each Sunday we hold services at:

- 8.00am** Holy Communion  
(Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship)
- 9.30am** Parish Communion and Adventurers  
or a Family Communion Service
- 6.00pm** Evening Prayer / Evensong / Taizé Service

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of each month we hold a service at 10.30am in St Mary's Church Centre, followed by coffee. We provide lifts for those who are elderly or infirm.

On Fridays at 12noon there is *Pause for Prayer* which lasts approximately 15 minutes. From June we hope to hold a short service at 1pm on Mondays.

### A Caring Community

Our Church reaches out to those in our community who are lonely, bereaved, sick, or dying. We also have contact with local nursing homes.

The Banbury Branch of the Mothers' Union (open to men and women) meets in St Mary's Church Centre and provides support for young families.

### Joyful Praise

Through the great dedication of our Musical Director and organist, we enjoy the joyful sound of a full choir. Their enthusiasm and harmony help lead our sung services each Sunday.

Our Tower Captains add to our musical life, maintaining an enthusiastic and lively band of bell ringers whose change ringing resounds for all in the parish to enjoy.

### A Praying Community

Each week our church congregation prays for parishioners who are sick or who have died recently. Prayer requests can be left on our prayer board or at "Cox & Robinson" chemists.

### Accessible Worship

There is a hearing loop system in the church to enable those with hearing aids to benefit from clearer sound. Service books in large type are available for those with seeing difficulties.

There is ramp access both outside and within the church. There are plenty of toilets and two have facilities for those with disabilities.

There is also a nappy changing station.

### A Beautiful Place

Over two centuries ago the people of Banbury built St Mary's Church to the greater glory of God and as a witness to future generations. As the only Grade 1 Listed Building in the parish it represents the crowning glory of their worship, prayers and generosity. Through the hard work of all on the Fabric team, the Flower and Cleaning Rota our church remains a special place.

### A Quiet Place

In our busier, noisier times St Mary's still provides a place where people find peace and quietness. On many days the stewards open the church building so that parishioners and visitors alike have a place to go when they need to talk with God.

*Whether to give thanks for the safe delivery of a new child or for recovery from a difficult operation, whether to pray for a sick family member, to seek comfort in bereavement or when life seems to be going wrong.*

### A Public Place

Through Baptism we regularly welcome new members to our Church and community. Weddings are a public witness of the marriage vows exchanged between two people. Services of Blessing witness the marriage of divorced people. Funerals celebrate the life and work of parishioners who have departed this life.

### A Place of Live Arts

Since the restoration and re-ordering of the church in 2001/2 the church has become home for Livearts@St.Marys which hosts a wide range of exhibitions, professional and community concerts throughout the year.

at the centre of our community

## St Mary's

### A Beautiful Place

I would like to:

- help with the flowers
- help clean the Church and the brass
- offer my sewing/laundry skills
- help with DIY maintenance

### A Quiet Place

I would like to:

- join the weekday stewarding team

### A Public Place

I would like to:

- help welcome baptism families
- organise archive material

### A Place of Live Arts

I would like to:

- help steward at concerts
- help run the bar at concerts (over 18's)
- learn about the lighting/sound

### A Praying Community

I would like to:

- read prayers (lead the Intercessions)
- join the *Pause for Prayer* group

## Sustaining Our Community

We are a community with a growing team of faithful and dedicated people helping to sustain our Church. We are a growing church and invite people to get involved whenever they feel ready to do so.

### What gifts can I offer?

We invite you to consider helping by:

- *getting involved, perhaps trying a new activity,*
- *offering your time, talents and skills,*
- *giving feedback and your views about the Church,*

Look around this page.

*Is there something you can do to help?*

Tick the box and we will get in touch.

Please return the form to the box in church

or send to:

St Mary's Rectory,  
89 Oxford Road,  
Banbury OX16 9AJ

Your name: .....

Your telephone no: .....

Your email address: .....

## St Mary's

### A Welcoming Community

I would like to:

- welcome people & give out books
- help with coffee after Sunday services
- help support the website for St Mary's
- learn more about the children's/youth work

### A Worshipping Community

I would like to:

- explore baptism/confirmation
- become a server
- read lessons

### A Caring Community

I would like to:

- chauffeur people to and from Church
- visit sick / lonely parishioners

### Joyful Praise

I would like to:

- sing in the choir
- play in the band
- become a bellringer

church at the centre of our community